

United States, which fortunately has been of a most co-operative and friendly nature, I think no one can fairly say that we have forgotten our interests in other parts of the world.

It may be further objected that in the economic field we, being in the dollar area, are cutting across the interests of those of you who are in the sterling area. From the point of view of Commonwealth trading relations, it is perhaps regrettable that Canada is in the dollar rather than the sterling area. Yet, in our participation last November and most recently this June in the Conference of Commonwealth Prime Ministers, we showed our desire to work together with other members of the Commonwealth towards the lowering of barriers to world trade and easing, insofar as we could, the strain on the sterling area. That you in New Zealand have been pulling your weight is attested by yesterday's news of your 3½ million pounds surplus with the non-sterling area.

The Commonwealth is not a selfish, exclusive group. Its traditions of consultation rule out formal commitments or concerted efforts to face other powers with a self-seeking political or economic bloc. Its true nature has been well set forth in the words of our Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, whom I quote:

"I think that the real link between the various members of the Commonwealth is their common ideals, their memories of association in the past, their intimate conviction that that association in the past has been for the benefit of their people, and their desire to conserve that association in the future for the benefit of their people. I do not think that we are being presumptuous or conceited when we believe, and even when we express the belief, that this Commonwealth group not only works for the benefit of its own peoples but is an effective instrument for the good of free mankind throughout the whole world."