

are being lessened. The damage to close co-operation, I think, is being repaired. Perhaps here again, as a result of the lessons we have learned, we may be able to avoid similar strains in the future.

I was speaking in New York a few weeks ago. My audience was almost entirely American and to them I had this to say about our belief in NATO and in Anglo-Franco-American co-operation which, I am vain enough to think, reflects the feeling of most Canadians. Perhaps you will pardon me if I close by repeating what I said on this particular occasion and to that particular audience.

"The unity of NATO, its cohesion and strength, depend primarily upon the closest possible co-operation between the United States, the United Kingdom and France. They are the heart and soul - and much of the muscle - of the Atlantic Community and it ought to be the task of all of us to work for the maintenance and strengthening of the good relationship between them. There is nothing that I know of in contemporary international affairs which is more important."

Then I went on:

"Perhaps a Canadian may be pardoned for showing a special interest in this triangular relationship; for we are, in a sense, a part of every side of the triangle.

"The United States shares with us the North American continent. We are linked with her by ties of friendship and neighbourliness, of geography and trade and self-interest. We could not break these links even if we desired, and we would be very foolish if we tried.

"Our ties with Great Britain and France have a very special character, evolving from history and tradition and race. We have with them a family relationship of a kind which is easy to feel but hard to describe. It has been driven deep into our national consciousness, into our peoples' feelings. We Canadians have stood side by side with the people of our two mother countries in dark and dangerous days, in 1914 and 1915; in 1939 and 1940; days when, if they had failed or faltered, freedom throughout the world would have fallen."

It is well for us to remind ourselves of these facts in 1957. This is a principle of Canadian foreign policy which, I think, is accepted by all of us in this country, which ever party we may belong to, as something of great value in this shifting and dangerous world. It is a world in which we must look with hope, but also with realism, to the United Nations. But one also in which we must base much of our hope for the future on this most important of all relationships,