

means complacent about the situation in the Carribean. Our position in NATO in the United Nations and elsewhere does, I think, make it clear where we stand in the world. However, our experience in our relations with Cuba has been different from that of the United States. Just as we respect the right of the United States Government to determine its own policies towards Cuba, we know that the United States will respect our right to reach our own decisions on such matters.

Conclusion

At the outset I spoke of the freedom with which Canadians and Americans can discuss together their problems and difficulties. This is a boon of friendship and a benefit of neighbourliness. In all things we must preserve a sense of proportion. Such differences of approach as arise from time to time between our two countries are dust in the scale in comparison with those great values, aspirations and interests which we hold in common.

We are allies together in the defence of Western freedom; we are upholders together of the cause of freedom, decency, humanity and good faith in dealings between nations. We are striving shoulder-to-shoulder to build a better world not only for our own people but for all mankind. Together we have learned to accept the implications of a shrinking world and the common responsibilities cast by destiny upon us.

Where in all the world do you find the governments of two adjoining countries forming joint committees of both governments? For the past three and one-half years I have had the privilege of being a member of the Joint Canada-United States Committee on Trade and Economic Affairs. From its establishment in 1958 I have been similarly a member of the Canada-United States Joint Committee on Defence. Through these channels we speak to each other at the government level with utmost frankness, but we never lose sight of the fact that we have and serve interests that are fundamentally common. I am sure we shall continue to do so.

Canadians are very proud of their independence; they are jealous of their sovereignty; they are a self-reliant people. Our decisions are our own, but let there be no doubt that for our American neighbours we cherish and will ever maintain an abiding friendship that befits the best neighbours in all the world.

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