

"In her participation in international affairs Canada will, I hope, act with resolution, with responsibility, and also with restraint. We should not evade our international duties; but in discharging them we should not be influenced unduly by national pride and prejudice. I hope that in our foreign relations we can reconcile our first duty to our own people with our ultimate obligations to the international community. In a frightened and suspicious world this is not always easy."

His prescription for Canadian conduct is as valid today as when it was first enunciated on April 29, 1948, and the world is only now beginning to be slightly less beset by fear and suspicion than it was then, when the expansionist and threatening behaviour of international Communism provided the impetus for the present Western system of collective security, of which Canada is now an integral part.

The fundamental objective of Canadian policy was then, as it is now, to preserve peace and to seek a reduction in international tensions, whether those tensions arise from the ideological conflict between East and West or from the upheavals which have been engendered by the surge toward independence and higher living standards of former colonial and underdeveloped peoples. In our pursuit of these objectives we aim to maintain a balanced, realistic and co-operative outlook on international affairs, avoiding excesses of optimism, pursuing policies commensurate with our capabilities, and ensuring that Canada speaks with a reasonable and constructive voice in international councils.

I have dealt at length with relations with the Communist part of the world and with the less developed areas, because those are the dominant forces in contemporary international life, affecting directly the scope for Canadian initiative in international affairs. I have outlined what I believe to be some of the ways in which we can work toward a further relaxation of tension. But I do not wish to exaggerate the possibilities. We are far from the point where we can relax our vigilance. There is no evidence as yet that the decrease in international tension which has begun will prove so durable that the dismantling of our defences would be warranted. We must recognize that the collective security arrangements, which we have developed within the North Atlantic alliance, by their very effectiveness have been a major factor in bringing about the more hopeful atmosphere which prevails today. NATO, which embraces our major military efforts in both Europe and North America, remains one of the main cornerstones on which Canadian foreign policy rests and must rest, not only in our preparations to defend ourselves if the need to do so should be thrust upon us but also in our approach to an era of peace, if that should materialize; and on this question I think the latter is the more likely consequence and result.

#### The Atlantic Community

It is important to recognize in this connection that NATO is not just a military alliance but an assembly of nations with common ideals and a high identity of purpose, in peace and in war. Since the competition between the Communist and democratic worlds will certainly continue, even if war is abandoned by Communism as an instrument of policy, all members of the Western world will be faced with the same problems of how best to respond. Thanks to