

At the United Nations the relations of our delegation were particularly close, as they always have been, with the delegations from the other Commonwealth countries and from the United States, and I should like to say a few words at this point about our relations with the United States.

For the past months we in Canada, and indeed the people of the whole world, have followed with mounting interest the constitutional and democratic processes of the United States in connection with the choice of a Federal Administration by the people of the United States. In Canada, and elsewhere, I think people were struck by the way in which, once the elections were over, the tumult had ceased and the television had faded away, the people of the United States closed ranks behind their new Administration and took up once again the gigantic task to which destiny has called them at this time.

To Mr. Truman of Independence, Missouri, Canadians owe much and I think will acknowledge a great debt. He met international challenges during the years he sat in the most important office in the most important state in the world with courage and conviction, and he played an indispensable part in laying the foundations which made collective resistance to aggression a reality and in strengthening the sinews of the free world. Now President Eisenhower is taking up this Herculean burden. We all know the towering contribution he made to victory in war. It is encouraging today to know that his qualities of statesmanship, and his strength of character, his wisdom and experience will be placed at the service not only of the United States, but of all the free world in our search for peace and security.

The inaugural speech of the new President breathed, I think, both humility and strength. It was an inspiration to all those who were able to hear or read it.

There are no two countries in the world, ... whose relations are closer and more intimate than those of Canada and the United States. We have our problems and our differences and will continue to have them, problems which arise not only from strictly bilateral questions but also from the position of the United States as the leader of the free world coalition of which Canada is a part. Naturally, as the United States possesses so much the greatest power in that coalition and as its influence is correspondingly, and rightly, greater than others, we others are preoccupied -- and at times intensely so -- as to how that power will be used and how that leadership will be exercised.

One problem for any Canadian Government in its relations with the United States as the leader of our coalition -- and it is sometimes a difficult problem to solve -- is to know when we should give up our own particular view in the interests of general agreement and when we should persist in our own policy even if it means disagreement of the kind which gives so much aid and comfort to the Communists.

In seeking for the right answer to this question, on the occasions when it is presented to us, there are various factors which I suggest we should always take into consideration. The first is our responsibility to our own people which means, when necessary, stating our own views to our friends frankly but responsibly. Second, it means an understanding of the desirability, indeed the necessity, in the face of the menace that confronts us, of maintaining the maximum degree of unity that is possible. Third, it means a recognition of the special responsibility that the United States is bearing in the effort for peace. All this, I suggest, makes it desirable not only that the Canadian voice in international affairs should be frank and clear and in