

Let me assure you that this noise does not mean that Canada is breaking up or that the Federal Government is giving up. We have our problems of federalism, of relations between the two levels of government. So has every federal union - even the U.S.A.. In our case those problems are complicated and made more difficult at times by the nature of our population. Our Confederation recognizes two founding language groups and cultures, British and French. The fact that Quebec has entered a new and dynamic period of change and development has merely emphasized and underlined that French-Canadians are not going to have their culture denatured by a dominant English-speaking Canadian or continental society. Nor should any Canadian or American wish it otherwise. Our problem is to reconcile this dual basis of our Confederation and the regional nature of our federalism with, first, the necessity of a central Government strong enough to discharge its responsibilities under our constitution and, secondly, the necessity of adapting our political thinking to the new Canada, which is a very different country than it was even 50 years ago. Among other things, nearly one-third of our population are now neither of English nor of French origin.

The building of a strong and united Canada, flying proudly its own Maple Leaf Flag but honouring the traditions and loyalties of its past, is not going to be simple or easy. It wasn't easy 100 years ago. It was done then. It will be done now.

The effort we are now making is itself bound to create some tensions. Facing up to problems always does. Indeed, ignoring them has its attractions for one who wishes to lead a comfortable life - for a time. But avoidance of the issue would merely ensure an ultimate explosion. We can and shall prevent this explosion by working out solutions to our problems. Canada is not rocking. She is rolling ahead. In doing so, we shall become a stronger, not a weaker Confederation - an even more powerful and flourishing state.

When the "going gets rough" at home (as it is bound to at times), we can always forget our own problems, our own differences, by uniting in criticising some foolishness in American policy or some American move that seems to ignore our national identity or affront our national pride. In this way, you are often very helpful in cementing the cracks in our unity. You should be happy to do this service for us. You have much to gain by that strength and unity. There are deep roots to our friendship and our good neighbourhood, and this makes for co-operation and mutual support. When the chips are down and there is a real threat to the basic values and principles that we cherish, we have stood and will stand together.

I think tonight of this need for co-operation and support in the light of the situation in Vietnam.

We need cool heads to assess the meaning of the struggle in South-east Asia. We need hard reason to guide our reactions and decisions. We should not permit either anger or anxiety to sway our judgment.

The first principle is surely that mankind can no longer afford war in the atomic age. This statement might seem a truism were it not for the fact that some Communist governments make an explicit reservation - that so-called "wars of national liberation" are exceptions and must be tolerated