

We realize, of course, that by far the greatest share of the burden is borne by this country; that American power will be decisive in defeating aggression just as its policies are of primary importance in preventing it. Consequently we recognize that there have been and will be occasions when, in case of differences, the views of the United States should prevail in the councils of the coalition.

There are other times, however, when we may feel that we have to differ and speak out in support of our own policies. Being North Americans, we will do so with frankness but I hope with restraint and responsibility. I know from some experience that it is not always easy to maintain this nice balance, so essential in the operation of a coalition, unless it is a communist one, between silence in the interest of the unity which is so important and open advocacy of your own views and your principles which, in certain circumstances, public opinion in your own country would expect.

Then there is always that feeling, which I have already mentioned, and which so profoundly affects current Canadian attitudes, that not only are we always under the shadow of your influence and power, but that we cannot escape the consequences of any decision which you make, whether we approve it or not, whether we are consulted in advance or not. This is not said in any spirit of irritation or of criticism. I am merely stating one of the, for us, inescapable facts of power and of international life.

Canadians realize that we are very fortunate in that the shadow over us is an American and not a communist one; that our relationship is one of free partnership and not communist master and servant. We know also that when the United States has to make decisions that affect its friends, it will always do its best to consult with those friends. But that doesn't completely remove our anxiety over our present position, as a junior member of a coalition in a world poised uneasily on the very edge of an atomic abyss. Nor is this to be expected.

Canada's whole history as a self-governing nation has been one of reaction to the pressure - and the attraction - exercised on her by a more powerful friend to which she was closely attached. While we were achieving our present national position, and while the United States was concerned more with avoiding European entanglements than leading Atlantic alliances, that powerful friend was the United Kingdom, whose imperial interests and commitments at times worried us; or at least those of us who were not content to be mere colonial followers. Now the mantle of world power has been transferred to our neighbour and our anxiety, as well as our admiration, is directed southward.

A distinguished Canadian editor, Mr. George Ferguson, referring a few weeks ago to the assertion that there has recently been a change in Canadian relations with the United States, had this to say:

"It is a fact that opinions, attitudes and policies have changed in the United States most remarkably. Our own change", he added, "has been a reaction to this American change. It is not that we have suddenly developed a rush of nationalism to the head and have become a difficult neighbour . . . What we are doing is what we have always historically done. We are reacting against the pressure we most immediately feel."