

means the application on a world scale of principles, which, although not yet universally or fully accepted in practice, are essential to the building of the kind of world we seek to achieve.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is a second, and a vitally important international association; one central to Canadian foreign and defence policy as it is to yours. For us, NATO is especially significant, as it reconciles the forces of geography and history in our national political evolution. It binds together for the common defence and the common welfare Canada's two mother countries, the United Kingdom and France, with her North American neighbour. In doing so it helps to dissipate the nightmare that used to frighten every Canadian government; a serious divergence in policy between neighbour and mother country.

NATO was the inevitable result of the post-war disillusionment of the North Atlantic nations, and the shattering of war-time hopes that all nations would co-operate to build a peaceful world-wide community. Looking forward in 1949, we believed that our best, if not our only, chance for peace was to be found in a defensive coalition of the free peoples of the North Atlantic community, whose resources in combination could provide strength adequate to deter, and, if necessary, successfully resist aggression and who were willing to use them for that purpose.

Looking back in 1953, it is crystal clear that we have been on the right path and that we should not abandon it for what may seem to be enticing detours.

Today, however, I would like to speak to you more particularly of another world-wide association known as the Commonwealth of Nations - the importance of which should never be under-estimated in adding up the resources on the side of the free world. Here by the shores of the Pacific, it seems to me appropriate that we should examine together the new forces at work in the Commonwealth, which in its modern form, now bridges the East and West.

This Commonwealth of Nations is a group of eight independent and sovereign countries, linked together by the Crown, by past co-operation, by unifying traditions and, even more important now, by a common devotion to freedom. It contains also a large number of dependent territories, nearly all of them linked to the United Kingdom - and all themselves progressing toward complete freedom and self-government, which must be accepted as the ultimate goal of every colonial people.

These independent but associated countries with their dependent territories are to be found in every continent and cover about one-fifth of the land surface of the globe. Their total population, including people of many different races, colours and creeds, is more than 600 million; close to one-quarter of the inhabitants of the world. Their peoples produce a substantial proportion of the world's industrial products and a large part of its food and raw materials. I mention these facts not to suggest, as Kipling did fifty-odd years ago, in a more spacious age, that "we hold Dominion over palm and pine" or to conjure up a picture of red patches all over the globe. This would be inaccurate, inappropriate and foreign to the spirit of the Commonwealth - or of the world - as it is today. I merely wish to remind you that the