

Here I suggest is a place where Universities can perform a very useful service to the peoples who have joined together to preserve the peace by sound and considerate interpretation of each one to the other. On a small scale at Trois-Pistoles, this University has been interpreting one part of our nation to another part. On a larger scale by spreading knowledge of each other, by the exchange of ideas and of personnel, by the diligent pursuit and the dissemination of truth, Universities generally should be able to make an invaluable contribution to cementing the alliance of these twelve North Atlantic Treaty nations for the preservation of their common freedom.

I am confident that each of the partners is resolved to do its full part in contributing to the combined strength which is required to hold back Communist imperialism. But the task will be that much easier if we all know more of what the other is doing, if we can appreciate more fully the difficulties that lie in the path of our allies and if we can come to understand the reasons they have for doing or not doing certain things which others might think they should be doing or refraining from doing. I am sure that, in this field, the Universities can make a very real contribution to the attainment of peace while remaining completely faithful to their true ends.

The provision of this combined strength by the North Atlantic Treaty nations to deter aggression is our first objective. If we succeed in establishing that combined strength - and I believe we will - Communist imperialism is apt to refrain from aggression against any of the twelve nations concerned; and that happy situation is apt to be reflected in other parts of the world as well.

But this will by no means be the end of our task. We must also try to convince the people over whom these ruthless men exercise control that they have nothing to fear from us unless they themselves attack us, but that if we are attacked we are prepared to defend as something worth more than all else - the right to order our own lives in our own way. This might sound academic to a peasant in the Ukraine who knows nothing of well organized political entities but the fear of the secret police. Nevertheless the fact remains that so long as a totalitarian dictatorship over vast numbers of people remains armed to the teeth, there is going to be tension in the world and no nation will feel secure.

The Universities have their part in this situation too. It is particularly difficult when there are so few practical contacts between the western democracies and the Soviet world. But some ideas do get through and our Universities can help to see that they are the right kind of ideas and that they reflect the true nature of our free way of life.

There remains the problem which I mentioned earlier of showing the Asiatic peoples now struggling to improve their existence that co-operation with the free nations of the West on a basis of genuine equality and human brotherhood has much more to offer them than the promises of Communism. We have no desire to impose our type of civilization on the people of the East. It probably would not suit them anyway. Their own civilizations are older than ours and there is much we have to learn from them. All we want to