

I don't myself share these preoccupations. It seems to me that the German Government policy which Chancellor Brandt has advocated is based firmly upon Germany being a member of the Western alliance. You know, Chancellor Brandt has said many times that he doesn't agree with the old German policy of ascendancy in Europe and so on, that he wants to be a member of a strong Western alliance and a Western community, and that that is one very solid part of his policy. The other is to use this base in order to try to promote better relations with the East and particularly to break the old patterns that seemed to result in an endless round of hostility and confrontations.

Would you say that perhaps those contradictory things one finds in the Nixon message indicate some kind of a concern in Washington that the initiative in East-West relations might be taken away from there and be taken up in Bonn?

I didn't detect that. No, I read those sections of the message that the President put forward, and he seemed to me to welcome some independence and greater strength in Europe.

At the same time, though...

Yes, he was also a bit concerned that there might be some leadership being given in Europe that might be contrary to the interests of the United States.

Well, right...

That is natural enough. The leadership of the United States in the world has been questioned, just as the leadership of Germany in Europe was questioned at one time. And it is a very nice balance that has to be struck. However, my reading of recent events is that there is beginning to be a better balance between Europe and America and...

But there are some people in America, that is in Washington, who don't seem to like that very much.

Well, maybe there are, but we, as Canadians, rather like it. After all, we had ourselves been advocating much the same policy. We had said, the time had come for Europe to take a much larger share of the burden of defence in Europe, that we still wanted to play a part, and it wasn't that we were withdrawing but simply that there was reason for a reassessment of the respective burdens. And this has been the same message of President Nixon.

In this reshuffling, let's say, of the alliance could you say that Canada is tending more towards Europe?

Yes. It's very difficult to define terms here. As far as Canada is concerned we recognize that if we are not going to