

Within the framework of the United Nations, both have strongly supported the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Canada's participation in two world wars has led Canadians to the conviction that the defence of Canada, the defence of North America and the defence of western Europe are all inseparable parts of the same objective — the preservation of western civilization by ensuring through the strength of NATO that aggression will be deterred and peace maintained.

Since NATO was organized nearly seven years ago, Canada has almost trebled the strength of its active forces. As its contribution to the integrated forces under the supreme allied commander Europe, Canada has in Europe 12 squadrons of jet aircraft and an infantry brigade group. In addition, some 40 Royal Canadian Navy warships are earmarked for duty under the supreme allied commander Atlantic.

We in Canada have made our contribution to the cost of airfields, pipelines and communications systems in Europe. We have given mutual aid to our NATO allies in the form of equipment and other help to the extent of one and one-quarter billion dollars. This latter item includes the cost of our NATO air training scheme under which the Royal Canadian Air Force has been training aircrew for our allies — incidentally we have already trained 4400 aircrew for our NATO allies.

Our rapid and extensive defence build-up at home and our contributions abroad are, I believe, no mean achievement for a nation of only sixteen million people.

May I now return to my main theme—the close, friendly relationship of Canada and the United States. It took many years to develop the understanding, the mutual trust and the confidence which characterize our relations today. We have had to devise new international techniques, new diplomatic devices. But through patience, study, discussion and compromise we have settled peacefully most of the problems affecting a large part of this continent. And we have settled them in such a way that the decisions have occasioned a minimum of acrimony and a maximum of satisfaction.

Is it too much to hope that the practical example which our two nations have set for the world may yet prevail—may yet lead to an ever widening appreciation and application of the principles which have come to govern our relations?

I have just returned from attending the NATO Council meeting held at Paris. NATO has, I believe, been the bulwark which has during recent years saved the Western World against the threat of aggressive attack. The Soviets do respect power and military strength if nothing else. And NATO, I believe, notwithstanding some set-backs, has been growing stronger and more effective as the years pass.