

"I believe that Canada's first duty to the League and to the British Empire, with respect to all the great issues that come up, is if possible to keep this country united".

The fact that since 1945 Canadians have been able to reverse almost all the corollaries which Mr. King drew in pre-war circumstances from the paramount necessity of national unity, has been due in part to the lessons of World War II itself, due also in part to the nature of the threat to peace since that war - communist imperialism. But it is also a monument to the success of the policies which during the past several decades have welded this nation together.

It is still the fundamental principle of wise statesmanship in Canada - and I hope it will always be recognized as such - that on important issues the nation's leaders should seek and pursue a policy which will, if possible, commend itself to a majority of our people in each section of the country. This is, of course, only possible to the extent that there is, among us all, a sense of restraint and responsibility, and sufficient intellectual flexibility and moral stature to be able to understand another section's point of view, when it differs from our own, and to respect it even though we may not agree with it.

Canadian unity has been maintained and consolidated precisely because a sufficient number of our people, in all sections, have developed these moral and intellectual qualities of self-discipline in a degree adequate to the challenges and crises which we have faced. If we can today have a positive foreign policy, it is precisely because of the degree of internal cohesion and unity which we have achieved.

This does not, of course, mean that national unity can be taken for granted. But our society of two cultures has by now reached the more mature stage where foreign policy can be formulated as a result primarily of a dispassionate analysis of the foreign situation.

In the '30's, then, we were intensely preoccupied with the effect of our foreign policy on the unity of our country. But in the '50's we are also concerned with the connection between that policy and the unity of the coalition against aggression, in which Canada is playing an active part. Hence the problem of seeking unity has been vastly enlarged in scope and complexity.

With the fantastic development in weapons and communications which technologists have produced, the effective scale of political affairs on our planet is rapidly changing. And as the scale changes the effective unit of manoeuvre in international politics changes too. Today no nation, not even the greatest, is big enough to be a fully effective unit of foreign policy.

In the 19th century, and to a large extent too in the first half of this one, most of the problems of foreign policy were problems within our Western civilization: usually problems between European states. Today the most challenging and most significant issues are found in the relations between two concepts of world organization: and in the emergence of new Asian states, free and insistent.