

friendly relations between London, Paris and Washington in respect of that area, and the strengthening of their co-operation generally.

Perhaps we in Canada are particularly conscious of the desirability and the need of this result. For that reason I think we would all want to give particularly wholehearted support, especially at this time, to one sentence from President Eisenhower's State of the Union message last Thursday when he said this:

America, alone and isolated, cannot assure even its own security. We must be joined by the capability and resolution of nations that have proved themselves dependable defenders of freedom. Isolation from them invites war.

I think it is hardly necessary to add in this House that no people in the world have proved themselves more "dependable defenders of freedom" than have the British.

Co-operation in the Commonwealth of Nations, in the United Nations and in NATO—all this—is important, indeed essential. But nothing is more important in the preservation of peace and the promotion of progress than is an enduring and solid friendship as the basic for co-operation and unity between the United Kingdom, France, and the United States. The recent NATO Council Meeting in Paris—and this may have been almost its most important achievement—began the process of restoring and strengthening that cooperation after the strains and interruptions to it brought about by the Suez crisis. It is essential that this process should continue.

We now have a great opportunity to profit from the unhappy experiences of the recent past by taking steps to ensure that those experiences will not be repeated.

Perhaps I should not close, Mr. Speaker, without at least mentioning—and there will be time only to mention it—a fourth factor which bears strongly on the formulation and execution of Canadian foreign policy. I refer to the fact that we are a neighbour of the United States on the North American continent.

On our relations with the United States my colleagues and I have often spoken over the last few years. I think we have made it abundantly clear that our acknowledgement of the United States as the inevitable and indispensable leader of the free world does not at all imply automatic agreement with all its policies. I have even been told by some of my friends below the line that we have a tendency to make this fact almost unnecessarily clear. On the other hand, it seems to me to be difficult to