

Canadians feel that they owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Harry S. Truman of Independence, Missouri, for the courage and persistence and wisdom he showed in laying the foundation for collective action against aggression and thereby strengthening our security and our confidence. We acknowledge wholeheartedly that debt.

But Canadians also admire and respect the great captain who led us - with grandeur but with modesty - through dark days of war to final victory and whose genius for firm but understanding leadership has now been placed at the service not only of his own country, but of the whole free world.

I am sure that the people of the United States - and its new administration - must by now be very conscious of the difficulties of leading a coalition - not of satellite followers - but of free democracies, in a period of half war, half peace, when dangers which face us require solidarity and sacrifice, but when the atmosphere of all-out conflict with its stirring emotions which makes sacrifice easy to bear, is absent.

As a leader of free states, the United States has at times to make concessions to the views and special requirements and special anxieties of its partners.

But those partners in their turn have the obligation to recognize frankly the special contribution to the common effort made by the U.S.A. and the heavy responsibilities it is bearing.

The reconciliation of these two things will be the test of the value and the enduring character of our association. It will be made successful only by the exercise of tolerance, steadfastness and mutual understanding. It will require also, the fullest and freest possible consultation between the members of the group. What concerns all should be discussed by all, so that we may all face together, with resolution and unity, the consequences of any action we take. To put the matter in its most exaggerated form - "There should be no annihilation without consultation"!

The problems now facing the United States as the leader of the North Atlantic alliance are in many respects those which have arisen in every previous alliance. Moreover, these same problems have given rise to reactions very like those which are sometimes current today in the United States. It is a penalty of leadership to feel overburdened and often misunderstood. This was certainly the feeling of the United Kingdom in the nineteenth century. You may remember how Matthew Arnold, replying to criticism of the Britain of that day, pictured it as "a weary Titan ... staggering on to her goal, bearing on shoulders immense, Atlantean, the load, well-nigh not to be borne, of the too vast orb of her fate". The United States may today feel at times the same way, but I do not think there is much danger that she will stagger under the "too vast orb" of her fate. I hope not, because that fate involves nothing less than the destiny of all mankind.

There are, then, heavy obligations laid both on those who must bear the responsibility of leadership for peace in United Nations and in the North Atlantic alliance, and on those of us whose duty it is to co-operate effectively and wholeheartedly with that leadership whenever it is possible