

members of the Commonwealth as well. In particular we have managed to establish a very close and profitable system of consultation with India. These consultations do not necessarily result in a united stand. Over the invasion of Suez, for example, we felt it necessary to oppose the action of the United Kingdom and France, and voted with India, Pakistan and the majority of the United Nations, while the other members of the Commonwealth were on the other side. But the very fact of our membership in the Commonwealth, and our intimate knowledge of what the United States, India, and the United Kingdom thought and wanted, enabled us to play a helpful role in bringing the two sides together again.

I have talked at such length about Canada and the Commonwealth because it is one of the main features distinguishing Canada from the other countries of the Western Hemisphere. We have retained the British system of cabinet government, we have retained the monarchy, and we have retained the political link with Europe. With the development of the Commonwealth this also meant a political link with Africa and South-East Asia. Therefore, politically we have tended, and still tend, to look politically east and west, not south, except, of course, towards the United States, the political, economic and cultural relations with which are of such overwhelming importance to Canada.

In addition to the political ties binding us still to Europe, there are very strong racial, cultural and economic reasons why we should still feel closer to Europe than countries like Colombia which established their complete independence nearly a century and a half ago. Canada is closer geographically to Europe than any country of America. It is easier and quicker to go from St. John's, Newfoundland, to London or Paris, than to go to Cuba or even Texas. St. John's is 2,000 kilometres closer to London than is New York.

Racially our country is almost entirely European - British and French to start with, and with a large admixture of central and southern European blood. Therefore it was inevitable that Europe should play a prominent role in our cultural development.

Economically our trade with Europe has in the past been very important, not so important now relatively, but still sufficiently important to make the economic prosperity of Western Europe essential for us.

Before the war our trade was triangular in large measure. We sold to Europe and bought from the United States. Since even today almost 25 per cent of our total production goes into exports, it is clear that the economic prosperity of Western Europe is essential to the economic prosperity of Canada.