

But there has also been improvement outside Russia. This may, indeed, be the very reason for any easing of the situation which may have occurred through shifts in Russian tactics and talk. I refer to the growing strength and defence cohesion of NATO and the Western Alliance. In four short years it has removed the greatest temptation for a potential aggressor to cause trouble; the hope of easy and quick victory. So let us not throw away or weaken the instrument which has brought about this improvement. The free nations, including Canada, must keep strong and united, using their strength, not provocatively or rashly, but to flash a steady warning sign against anyone who would break the peace; if we can follow this course of unity and strength among the free world; if we can resist panic action on the one hand, and appeasing concessions on the other, we can face the menace of our divided world with at least some confidence. But all this means discipline, steadiness, and effort, on the part of all peoples who believe in freedom and peace, and are willing to make the necessary sacrifices to this end.

It means also tolerance and understanding between friends; compromise and give and take as we try to keep the free world coalition together. The very fact that the sense of imminent danger has lessened makes this task, while as essential as ever, more difficult. Animals will automatically huddle together in a blizzard, but when the sun comes out will begin to squabble over the limited pasture rights.

So the days ahead are bound to be critical ones, not only for defence, but for diplomacy. And by diplomacy, I mean not only the search for a settlement with the communist world, but keeping together among ourselves, and reducing our own disputes and divisions to a minimum.

It is, in truth, a "time for greatness", and I hope that we will all be equal to its challenge.

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