

Iceland, which are not in The Six or The Seven; and when you think that Sweden, Switzerland and Austria are not in NATO; when you look at this picture, you realize that NATO is not the place to work out the problems of trade in Europe. Hence the solution of these problems has been left to other organizations, including the possibility of a new organization being set up. Every one of the NATO countries is very anxious to do whatever it can to solve those difficult trading problems.

I should like to sum up what I have to say about NATO in these words. I believe it is remarkable that NATO has developed the way it has into a closely-knit and effective organization for collective defence and co-operation in many important non-military fields. Its strength derives in large measure from the freedom and independence which its members exercise and from the strong ties of history, culture and friendship, which the nations of Western Europe share with Canada and the United States. With this background, I believe we can be confident that any differences which arise out of the alliance will be resolved, as they have in the past, in a spirit of friendship and mutual regard for each other's interests.

Commonwealth Relations

I go on to the Commonwealth. Canada's relations with each one of the other nine members of the Commonwealth are excellent. All 10 members value this membership very highly. Why should they not? As members of the Commonwealth, they have far more influence than any one of them could possibly have alone.

Another reason why they place great value on this membership is that today the Commonwealth is obviously the best bridge between the continents, playing a significant part in world affairs and of necessity working for peace. This Commonwealth of ours is so spread out around the world that it must work for peace. If there should be war the Commonwealth would be in far more trouble than the United States or the Soviet Union because, as I say, it is so scattered across the globe, and certainly everyone in the Commonwealth at the present time is working for peace.

Another reason why great value is placed on membership is that the Commonwealth is steadily growing and growing in a way that sets an example to all the rest of the world. On October 1 of this year Nigeria is to become a free nation and of its own free will a member of the Commonwealth of Nations. Nigeria is one of the leading countries in Africa with over 30 million people, the most populous country on that continent, and I believe it has the stability and the organization to make a splendid contribution, not only in the Commonwealth but also in the United Nations and in world affairs generally. This nation is one more that is being launched as an independent nation under the leadership of the United Kingdom and the other members of the Commonwealth.

We think of the launching of India, that great country which has been such a friend of Canada from the time it first got its independence, of Pakistan and