

I went on:

"... the days of relatively easy and automatic political relations with our neighbour are, I think, over. They are over because, on our side, we are more important in the continental and international scheme of things, and we loom more largely now as an important element in United States and in free world plans for defence and development. They are over also because the United States is now the dominating world power on this side of freedom. Our preoccupation is no longer whether the United States will discharge her international responsibilities, but how she will do it and how the rest of us will be involved."

That seemed to me then, and events since then have confirmed my view, to be a statement of an obvious truth.

Even if there were no cold war, no international tension, no free world coalition with the United States as leader and Canada as a member, our problems, in a strictly bilateral sense, would almost certainly have increased in difficulty and complexity, because, as I have just said, of Canada's growth in strength and importance as a North American and Atlantic power. If you could look at the present calendar of specifically Canadian-American problems that face the two governments, you would see what I mean; problems of continental defence, problems of trade, including those arising out of agricultural stocks in both countries, of investment, of communications, including the St. Lawrence Seaway, of border crossing and of internal security. These problems would exist, though not perhaps in exactly the same form, if there had never been a Russian Revolution or a Communist International. They are a challenge to the good sense and good neighbourliness of the two countries, but I'm sure the challenge will be met by solutions which will be fair and just. That is the way we try to do business with each other.

But there is another important aspect of our relationship; that which arises out of your position as the leader of a great coalition, determining issues which may mean peace or atomic war.

Canadian-United States relations, in this sense, are merely part of the relations between members of a coalition of which by far the mightiest member is the United States, but in which Canada is now strong enough to make a contribution of some importance; one which we think entitles us to an appropriate share in the responsibility of making those decisions which affect us.

Though only 15 millions of people, with the job of opening up and developing half a continent, we devote some 10% of our gross national product to defence, and about 45% of our budget to defence. We have troops in Korea and in Europe an army brigade group and a full air division of 300 first line jet fighters. We are also cooperating actively with you in the development of defence installations for the direct protection of this continent.