

Some see NATO as a hindrance to efforts to achieve a general relaxation of tension in the world. I believe, on the contrary, that we have been able to improve relations with the Soviet Union in recent years because our defensive power has provided a basis for clear understanding and, to an increasing extent, I believe, mutual respect. In earlier periods, shifting political alignments among nations, lack of military preparedness in peace-time on the part of some nations and an exaggerated militarism on the part of others led to uncertainty, panic and crisis.

We are trying now, through new conceptions of security, to create conditions of political and economic stability and military strength which will enable the Atlantic nations to show the maximum flexibility in relations with the rest of the world. The fate of our efforts to adhere to this modern conception of an alliance in our foreign policy will be of the greatest importance to Canada in your lifetime.

Our foreign policy does not, however, confine itself to the problems of a regional alliance, so far as the search for peace and security is concerned. The hope of security for a few nations is an illusion if we ignore the forces elsewhere which could now, or in the future, shatter that security.

I am sure that for you, as for me, the ultimate question when we consider our own future or the future of our families is whether mankind can permanently outlaw the use of nuclear energy for war. The alternatives presented by our unprecedented power for welfare or for destruction are clear and dramatic. The astronauts of the two leading powers in the world have exclaimed at the sheer beauty of the world as they have seen it, with all the fresh enthusiasm of explorers entering unknown oceans or sighting unknown continents. The military strategists of the same two powers are forced to contemplate, as a matter of professional routine, a devastation of the face of the globe which would throw human beings, animals and the very plants which sustain our life into a nuclear furnace.

We have chosen as the focal point for our policy in a universal sense the "diplomacy of reconciliation" which Dag Hammarskjold saw as the main task of the United Nations. "All the varied interests and aspirations of the world", he said "meet in its precincts upon the common ground of the Charter."

The varied initiatives of diplomacy are directed toward this focal point of a reconciliation of interests. Some have to do with disarmament or the limitation and control of arms. Some arise from the needs of peace keeping, which have led to a Canadian presence in United Nations projects in many parts of the world remote to us. In all such initiatives in political, economic or social matters, we have acted out of the conviction so eloquently expressed by an American judge on the International Court of Justice that "there will be general international realization of the common interest and that the timeless tide will still flow toward uniformity in the law of nations".