

These young Canadians, all of whom are volunteers, are here in our common defence. I believe their presence here as NATO troops, living among you, has contributed to a better understanding between our two peoples. I know we have appreciated the welcome they have received. We have also appreciated the assistance which the civilian population and German authorities at all levels of government have given us in facilitating the establishment here of these men and their families. Increasing numbers of dependents of our servicemen are coming to live in Germany. And I am confident that they will enjoy their stay here and that they will make friends and profit from the experience.

The new position which Germany is building for herself in Europe is, of course, of great interest to countries like mine which are co-operating in the common defence of Europe. In particular, we have watched the encouraging development of your relations with your western neighbours, and especially with France. In thinking of the relations between France and Germany, I am reminded of the history of my own country. At the outset Canada was colonized by France and later became a British possession. The growth of my country has to a great extent been shaped by the presence of these two large ethnic groups whose memories of the past and where aspirations and interests brought about many clashes. Our development to nationhood has not been achieved without strife and even bloodshed at times. The different races in Canada gradually came to realize that they must live together and they started to seek the things which joined them together rather than separated them. Today Canadians, whatever their race or religion and in whichever province they live, are co-operating as never before in our history. While a majority of the Canadian people are English-speaking, yet I stand here tonight as the Prime Minister of Canada and one who is proud to acknowledge that he comes from the French-speaking section of Canada and is of French and Irish origin. Our success in living with one another makes us believe that we should be able to live at peace with our neighbours and that peoples of different races and with differing interests can work together.

The European countries have made tremendous strides forward in the realization of the age-old dream of uniting Europe. By hard work and perseverance you have wrought marvels of reconstruction in your various countries and with assistance and encouragement from the newer countries across the seas you have re-established your industry and your commerce. In a number of different fields of endeavour you have joined with one another to act for the common good. The European Payments Union, the European Coal and Steel Community, the OEEC and inspiring evidence of the success with which you have pooled your resources and your skills.

It may be, however, that European unity in itself cannot be expected to furnish an answer to the problems that face Western Europe. Perhaps the time has now come to consider whether some of the steps towards closer integration, which we must take if our concept of civilization is not to perish, should be taken within the larger framework of the North Atlantic community. It would be difficult for me at this stage