

The record of Canadian-American relations, then, gives us cause for confidence that this country will play with honour and distinction its new role on the world stage. Another reason for that confidence is the strong and deep-rooted democratic traditions of this country.

It is a happy circumstance - and one of great importance for the world - that the enormous power of this land is held by a people of liberal traditions with a democratic form of government and with a strong sense of responsibility for the welfare, not only of their own, but of the world community. This quality in your society gives the world reason to believe that you yourselves will be the critics of your own policies; that your own conscience both national and individual will be the most effective check on your actions; and that you will protect yourselves against the dangers of arrogance, rashness and provocation which often attend the exercise of power. The debates which go on in this country, at times tumultuously and acrimoniously, especially in matters of foreign policy, occasionally confuse and disturb the observer from abroad. We can ease our concern by the knowledge that this noisy clamour gives assurance to the rest of the world that your public is determined to be informed of every aspect of your foreign policy with all its implications.

The spirit of the town meeting remains - even though it may at times seem obscured and distorted by klieg lights, whirring cameras, microphones and sensational headlines. Curiosity and intelligence, idealism and generosity, a sense of fair play, with decision only after full discussion remain strong elements in the character of the American people. They give us in other countries the hope that your foreign policy, once it is formulated, will be strong without being arrogant; dynamic without being rash; realistic without being reactionary.

My third reason for having faith in the wise discharge of your responsibilities as a great nation is the evidence you have already given in the post-war period of far-seeing and statesmanlike policies in the face of grave emergencies. History will record that the Marshall Plan was an expression of national policy almost without parallel as an example of enlightened self-interest in the best meaning of that term. There are other examples, which I have not time to mention. Taken together, they give the world good reason to believe that the people of this country, by a combination of shrewd judgment about the realities of the situation and willingness to adopt measures conceived on a majestic scale in the international field, will be equal to the role of leadership which they have now assumed.

My fourth reason for confidence is the constant evidence that the people of this country really wish to enter into a genuine partnership with other nations in the conduct of their foreign policy. As the aims of that foreign policy gradually become more clearly defined, it also becomes increasingly evident that the people of this country do not wish to force their policy upon anybody. On the contrary, through international organizations based on democratic conceptions, they are prepared to work out with their neighbours and with other like-minded states all over the world, procedures which are mutually acceptable. This is a slow process and sometimes frustrating. It never produces exactly the results which are desired. However, the determination to pursue it, with firmness and magnanimity, is one of the principal hallmarks of greatness in a powerful state.

My final reason for encouragement is one with special significance to a Canadian. I think that the national life of our