

## FOREWORD

As this 47th Annual Report of the Department of External Affairs goes to press, there are numerous and serious problems of international affairs still unresolved; many of them are under discussion or negotiation, at the United Nations and elsewhere. The consequences of United Nations discussions, and the part which the Canadian Delegation has played in their conduct, will be reviewed in "Canada and the United Nations", which will be prepared and made public as soon as possible after the conclusion of this 11th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

A year ago, in my preface to the Annual Report for 1955, I observed that we could look forward to a turbulent year and that, so far as one could see, this would probably be a recurring theme in annual summaries for some time to come. However great our misgivings may have been then, I doubt if we could have anticipated all the problems which we have now inherited from the past year. Dilemmas and difficulties which confronted us in January 1956 remain unsettled; indeed, some of them now face us in an aggravated form. But, in addition to these old problems, the year 1956 has left us a dubious legacy of new and complex questions which we are now trying to solve against a background of world events which challenge our skill, our strength and our determination.

It seems to me pointless to brood about the misunderstandings, the errors of judgment, the lack of confidence and co-operation between free nations which have had much to do with bringing us to the present situation, especially as the responsibility for these weaknesses must be shared among many governments. It would be unrealistic to pretend that the North Atlantic Alliance, the bastion of the free world, was not shaken by the events of last autumn. Even the strong and cherished, if flexible, ties of the Commonwealth were severely tested. We know what has taken place. It is now our duty to ensure that the old relations of firm friendship and close co-operation, on which our security depends, are firmly re-established on a more secure and more permanent foundation than before.

In spite of the depressing events which brought 1956 to a close, this last year was not entirely one of setback and gloom. Through the tragic sufferings of the Hungarian people, the entire free world and, surely, those nations which are somewhat curiously described as "uncommitted", must have come to a final realization that the amiable façade of Soviet co-existence conceals the brutal Soviet conception of international relations as a jungle where the strong do what they will and the weak suffer what they must. But the agony of Hungary has been a bitter price to have this evident truth demonstrated once again.

There is another development and from this we can gain comfort. The forces of freedom are fermenting in those communist countries which have previously had to submit to the totalitarian tyranny of Moscow. The results of this may be important ultimately in terms of international security and the solution of international problems. Indeed, these forces