

We know also that in this age of guided missiles and supersonic speed, the defence of our two countries must now be considered as a strategic whole. Both our governments have recognised this and the expression of that recognition is in our joint and co-operative defence arrangements.

There has been some criticism of those arrangements, naturally, by those whose aggressive designs might be checked by them. We expect that and we need not get too excited at malicious and false reports about far flung and provocative preparations for offensive war in the far north. The exaggeration of our very modest joint defence activities in the Arctic into a fort on every iceberg and an air base on every ice flow, would be amusing, if its purpose were not so mischievous. However, there has also been some criticism in Canada of our joint defence arrangements, by those who are worried lest this may mean that the United States is going to "take over" Canada through peace-time occupation of bases on Canadian territory. This fear springs from that sensitiveness which I have spoken about and is a natural and not unhealthy reaction of a vigorous people, proud of its own independent position. It was answered the other day in our House of Commons by our Minister for External Affairs when he said:

"Co-operative defensive arrangements with a neighbouring state need not of course be inconsistent with collective defence within the terms of the Charter of the United Nations. Such measures are, in the present circumstances that confront our two countries, normal and necessary. They infringe no rights, inside or outside Canada. I can assure the House on this point. There is no threat to the control of our own affairs in our collaboration with the United States on joint defence. The Canadian Government is aware of the sensitiveness of our people in this regard. The United States Government also is aware of it and respects it. It readily accepts the position laid down formally by ... the two Governments ... that all joint defence undertakings on Canadian territory - and they are of a very limited character with very few United States personnel involved - shall be under Canadian control."

It should not be thought, however, that the recognition of our strategic importance as a North American nation, situated in the air map between the two most powerful super-states, the U.S.A. - U.S.S.R., and its expression in joint defence arrangements with the U.S.A., mean that we would not like to extend such co-operative arrangements to other states; indeed to all other states. Having said that, I hope that this very modest and unofficial Canadian olive branch will not be seized on by the Tass agency or the Soviet radio as the apologetic opening of an open door; as a confession of sin and a plea for forgiveness. It merely means that we in Canada have never thought of our co-operative defence arrangements with the U.S.A. as anything for which we need apologize to anybody, or as either exclusive or aggressive.

Above all, we do not consider our closer co-operation with the United States as weakening in any way our intimate association with the nations of the British Commonwealth. That association is today based on no written agreements or treaties of any kind. It is based on a community of political and social ideals; on an adherence to a common doctrine of decency and liberty and tolerance in human behaviour and social organisation. Canada, now a free nation and I think a great country of the future, cherishes her position in that association, not because it is narrow, threatening, exclusive, but, on the contrary, because it is composed of peoples who, with those of the United States, can show the way to the only ultimate solution for the problem of peace and war, a Commonwealth of all nations.

Co-operation between the British Commonwealth and the U.S.A. - though of first importance - is, however, not enough, to ensure the defence of those values which are worth defending - even unto war. There should be collective strategy, and collective defence preparations on the part of all the democratic freedom-loving states. There should also be collective political defence against aggression on the widest possible basis.