

If we are to win the struggle to preserve even our own freedom we must not allow Communism to overrun the whole continent of Asia. To avoid that, we need the active sympathy of Asian peoples and we are not likely to have it unless they can be convinced that the friendship of the West is of greater advantage to them than anything they can expect from the Communist alternative.

Of course, an important part of the grand strategy of Communist imperialism is to stir up strife between Asia and the West. While giving lip service to the ideal of national and individual freedom for the peoples of Asia, they are really twisting human needs and aspirations to the service of their world strategy. This is one of the most sinister and dangerous aspects of this Communist strategy.

Now we have to ask ourselves what is the best way to gain and keep the friendship and goodwill of the Asian peoples, and to prevent them from becoming the victims of Communist expansion.

But before I deal with that question, I should like to say something more about the problem of containing Communist imperialism in the West. In the North Atlantic area, as you know, twelve countries including Canada have banded themselves together into an alliance to build up sufficient strength to discourage Communist aggression in Western Europe. The purpose of this North Atlantic alliance is not to start a war; it is to prevent one by making it plain to any possible aggressor who might consider attacking any one of us that he will have to face us all and that he will have little prospect of ultimate success.

The part which our country is to play in the Atlantic alliance has been mapped out. It is proposed to have Canada's army and air force participate in the European integrated force, and to have our navy share in the defence of the North Atlantic ocean. We are also training aircrew for our North Atlantic partners and we are to make substantial contributions in the production of defence materials not only for ourselves but for our allies.

While our general role has been agreed upon it is always subject to change. In times like these we have to be able to adapt our plans to suit the vagaries of the international climate and to meet any emergency that may arise. On these grounds alone the building of our alliance into a strong and lasting bulwark of peace is not a simple task.

And I do not need to tell a University audience that history shows it is always difficult to hold an alliance together. There are twelve nations in the North Atlantic Treaty, most of whose people speak different languages and have varying backgrounds, cultures and outlooks. The people in each of these nations inevitably look at problems from their own point of view. Several of our Atlantic partners are only just started on the road to recovery after undergoing the ravages of the most terrible war in history. They cannot be expected to make the same kind of contribution to the common strength as their more fortunate allies. Now, in every alliance, there are bound to be comparisons between the efforts of one nation and those of another. And too often such comparisons lead to misunderstandings and recrimination.