

But it can succeed. It will succeed, if ordinary people the world over are helped to recognize that peace is the responsibility of all, not merely the responsibility of delegates of governments.

Where does Canada stand in this picture? What is our role to be? In this new world of science and modern transportation Canada has suddenly discovered herself to be the geographic and strategic centre of the continents. In the past we have thought ourselves protected by the oceans and isolated from the spheres of influence making for war. Bounded by three great oceans, we appeared to be a favoured and protected unit in a world that had not learned to live without war. If ever that were true it is certainly not true to-day. The three oceans no longer isolate or protect us. On the contrary they but provide an uninterrupted highway over which hostile agents of destruction can search us out between dawn and daylight from any angle of the compass. Any global map shows us where we are, in the centre of the great land masses of the globe, a possible modern Flanders in a world war.

Our geography has become at once our greatest danger and our greatest challenge. We have no choice now but to throw our weight positively in the direction of peace and order in the world. We are not mere spectators of the international scene. From this time on we are actors as well as spectators on the world stage. Those sacred acres of European and other soil "which are forever Canada" will not permit us again to shirk our responsibilities as a nation.

To make our full international contribution Canada must have a continuous and consistent foreign policy. Improvisation is not good enough to ensure continuity. To ensure the full assumption of our world responsibilities it is imperative among other things that a separate ministry of external affairs be created. Foreign policy is too vital to be left to the spare-time direction of a harassed Prime Minister. I was glad to hear the announcement this afternoon that the Prime Minister recognizes that he is already carrying too heavy a load, and that provision is being made so that sometime, I do not know how soon, that load may be shared by someone else.

Canada is now an international power. Her responsibilities in the cause of peace are potentially heavy. Her obligations are great.

Complacency in the past has been the scourge of our generation, and unpreparedness and appeasement the cause of war. All this complacency, unpreparedness and appeasement will have the same results in the future

as in the past. Let them be cast off now and forever. Canada is now invested with the moral responsibility for sharing the price of world peace, and I venture the solemn prediction that unless we are true to the sacrifices of our sons we will be equally guilty with aggressors for any anarchy that may again confront us.

We have paid a terrible price for a war that could have been prevented. Our default was not wholly in lack of military preparation. It was also in a negative attitude of irresponsibility. Everyone preached about rights, but little was heard about responsibilities, and the dictators saw in this attitude a lack of unity of purpose and of faith. Furthermore, there were in our midst people who exalted novel and foreign types of government and at the same time condemned British institutions upon which our Canadian way of life was built.

Dictators preached that our democratic institutions were decadent. After world war 1 we placed all the emphasis on status, autonomy, political decentralization; meantime, the technological forces of the universe were driving nation states against their will toward world inter-dependence and forced cooperation.

I do not raise these matters for the purpose of recrimination, but I trust that from now on there will be less irresponsible talk on the part of public men in this country. Canadians will expect that public men will not again seek votes in certain parts of this country on the basis that they, if elected, will keep the country at peace and that their opponents, if elected, will drive the country into war.

The ultimate solution is of course a world government, but humanity will have a long and hard road to travel before that utopian objective is achieved. In the meantime, this parliament must decide what part Canada is to play in our journey along that road. What then is to be our policy? Where in fact do we stand? Let us be done with any doubts on that matter.

We see before us a world dividing into blocs and spheres of influence. It is recognized that there are now three great powers. Does anyone here wish to see these major spheres of influence reduced from three to two? What would the next step be? It would be a contest between two powers for world domination, and Canada would find itself in the front line of that contest.

Surely that is a prospect that none of us can contemplate with equanimity. I suggest therefore that the preservation and strengthening of the commonwealth of British nations is at this stage in our history the best hope of permanent peace in a world dominated by three spheres of influence. Within that family