

I have taken you far afield in attempting to describe the influence of the university in fashioning the ties of friendship which exist between Canada and the Republic of the United States and between Canada and the Commonwealth of Nations. I now return to my original point of departure and suggest to you that this constructive influence has been able to make itself felt simply because the university as such has refused to bow to national considerations and swears first allegiance to the universal republic of learning and the comprehensive commonwealth of civilized human thought. To the humanizing and civilizing mission of the university, the contemporary world looks with greater expectation and with higher hope than ever before in recorded history. Spanning the gulf of time, and all the barriers of geography and all man-made boundaries is the human capability, the capacity for the understanding and appreciation of our fellow man. In that capability is our greatest hope and in our universities are our most effective laboratories for its creative development. Wars begin in the minds of men. In the universities of the free world - and I have the privilege of speaking at one of this illustrious company - is the only effective equipment for opening the mind which is narrow, biased, one-track or, more fraught with danger, closed.

I salute this company of graduates, one and all, and bid you Godspeed in whatever direction you may have chosen for yourself. May the charts of the human spirit which you have been privileged to glimpse, even if only briefly during your years at this university, serve you well in the specific voyages you have undertaken and in the challenging days of discovery which lie ahead for all of us.

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