

During those years supporters of the League of Nations, the spiritual ancestors of those who are here tonight, strove to bring home to people in this as in other countries some very simple truths ... "peace is indivisible" (it is interesting to recall that this was Litvinoff's phrase) ... prosperity is indivisible .. peace can be preserved only by the willingness of nations to stand together against aggression rather than be conquered separately. Meanwhile events from Manchuria to Ethiopia, from German rearmament to Munich brought home these truths with the steady tramp of marching feet which each day from 1932 on brought us closer to war.

The war which came in 1939 was won in the end by the collective action which, had it been taken in time, would have prevented it.

During the war steps were taken to begin the organization of peace after victory. The Atlantic Charter today is unfortunately almost a forgotten document, but let us recall what it said. Two great men, Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt said that it was right

"to make known certain common principles in the national policies of their respective countries, on which they base their hopes for a better future for the world ... no aggrandizement ... no territorial changes ... sovereign rights and self-government restored ... access, on equal terms, to the trade and to the raw materials of the world ... improved labour standards, economic adjustments and social security ... a peace which will afford to all nations the means of dwelling in safety within their own boundaries and which will afford assurance that all the men in all the lands will live out their lives in freedom from fear and want."

The Atlantic Charter was made on August 14, 1941, before the United States had entered the war. It was the basis for the Declaration by the United Nations made at Washington on January 1, 1942, the first array of the grand alliance which brought victory.

Soon in every country teams of experts were working on the terms of peace and the machinery to prevent another war.

Two wars and a world-wide depression brought home to Canadians that for us isolation was an impossibility. Our country links the Atlantic and the Pacific and is on the great air routes of the world. Our resources with the hard work of Canadian hands and the results of Canadian skills make us one of the great trading nations with world-wide interests. The prosperity of the people of Three Rivers and Chicoutimi, of Portage la Prairie and Moose Jaw, of Vancouver and Halifax, depends on trade, trade with people in other parts of Canada, trade with other parts of the world. On a stable international policy hangs the fate of our prosperity, our welfare and our peace.

Under the present Prime Minister and his distinguished assistant, the late O.D. Skelton, the Department of External Affairs was gradually built up. It was small but it was good. Its growth matched our increasing interest, responsibilities and opportunities. As our representatives became known abroad, they became respected. Because Canada has no particular interest except peace, we usually stood objectively for what was generally regarded to be the interest of all countries.

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