

On both sides of the boundary we have come to realize how much these personal contacts between heads of governments can supplement our normal diplomatic relationships. I hope and believe that for many years to come it will be possible for an American President to be greeted in Ottawa and a Canadian Prime Minister to be welcomed in Washington with the warmth which has been characteristic of such visits over the past thirty years.

This visit is giving me the opportunity of discussing a wide range of subjects with the President and his colleagues in your government; and I dare say you gentlemen in the press will speculate with a good deal of accuracy about the things we will have talked about and that some of you may even venture to report both what we will have actually said and did not say to each other.

We Americans and Canadians occupy most of the area of this continent. As we look out on the rest of the world from our North American homelands we are, all of us, very thankful that we live in lands that have been so favourably endowed by Providence and we want -- Americans and Canadians alike -- to do everything we can to preserve our heritage from aggression and from the threat of aggression.

In most respects, Canada is much the smaller of our two countries. We have only one-eleventh of your population and despite the rate at which we have been developing, our developed national wealth is proportionately even smaller. That means that in looking after our joint defences the United States inevitably has the bigger share; though we feel that between individual Canadians and Americans there is no similar contrast.

The one respect in which we are bigger than you are is that we have more square miles of territory. Because of our size, our colder climate and our relatively sparse population, we in Canada have to devote proportionately a much greater number of people and a larger share of our resources to maintaining our "national overhead".

The maintenance of communications over great distances and difficult terrain, the provision of essential services of government, both national and local, and the many problems of protecting our people from the rigours of the Canadian weather necessarily absorb the energies of a certain proportion of our population which in the United States would be available for more definitely productive effort. I mention these special problems we have in Canada because they do help to explain why our developed wealth per capita is not as great as yours.

They are circumstances also which we in Canada have to take into account in determining what proportion of our national energies and resources can be devoted to defence.

We all entertained high hopes of a peaceful world in 1945; but our disillusionment came with unhappy speed. The United Nations was not able to organize the police force envisaged in the Charter to provide adequate security for those of us who really wanted peace, and as a second best we were obliged, for our security, to enter into regional or limited arrangements for which the Charter provided.