

Over the next few months, we shall have many occasions for consulting on these matters with our friends from the United States and other countries. Within the next few weeks representatives of the Canadian Government will be meeting with members of the United States Cabinet in the first full meeting of the Joint United States-Canadian Committee on Trade and Economic Affairs to discuss some of these trade and agriculture policies which are of direct concern to our two countries. In connection with agricultural surpluses and stockpiles, President Eisenhower has also indicated that he envisages exchanges of views with foreign governments. In these and other ways, it is to be hoped that effective international co-operation will be secured in working out solutions to these many and important problems which will expand trade and best serve the interests of all countries. We want no more of the "beggar-my-neighbour" policies which were sometimes applied with such unfortunate results in earlier periods before the war. The Canadian Government will, I assure you, play its part in promoting constructive and co-operative measures. We realize - and have more than once stated - that economic conflict and political co-operation are not easy to reconcile.

In this course I am confident that it will have the strong support of the farming community which has such a stake in healthy and vigorous international trade.

There is something, however, even more important than international trade. That is the struggle to preserve and strengthen peace and security.

That struggle, and its chance of success, is in the back, indeed in the front, of all our minds. If we fail here, we won't have to worry about the prices of wheat or cattle. Our only concern will be survival amidst the horror, the unutterable horror, of an atomic war, which will make the last one, with all its death, destruction and devastation, seem like a sham battle.

It seems to me unwise, and even dangerous to fall into either panicky pessimism or self-induced optimism when looking at the realities of the international situation today.

It is true that there has been some easing of tension in the last year, but the world remains a dangerous place for the weak, the weary and the unwary.

If the feeling of crisis, of immediate and acute danger has subsided somewhat, and it has, this may be due in part merely to the fact that when you live under conditions of tension and insecurity long enough, you become used to them, and custom makes even hard things seem a little easier. But it is true, also, that there have been developments, inside and outside Russia, which give us some concrete ground for encouragement. The former may imply nothing more than an orthodox change of communist tactics, designed to deceive and divide and, hence, weaken us. But it may be more, and therefore we should be alert to take every advantage of any genuine move to peace, without assuming that every bird released from the Kremlin ark is a dove! There is a difference between an open mind and a soft head.