

Perhaps we in Canada are particularly conscious of the desirability and the need of this result. For that reason I think we would all want to give particularly wholehearted support, especially at this time, to one sentence from President Eisenhower's State of the Union Message last Thursday when he said this:

America, alone and isolated, cannot assure even its own security. We must be joined by the capability and resolution of nations that have proved themselves dependable defenders of freedom. Isolation from them invites war.

I think it is hardly necessary to add in this house that no people in the world have proved themselves more "dependable defenders of freedom" than have the British.

Co-operation in the Commonwealth of Nations, in the United Nations and in NATO—all this—is important, indeed essential. But nothing is more important in the preservation of peace and the promotion of progress than is an enduring and solid friendship as the basis for co-operation and unity between the United Kingdom, France and the United States. The recent NATO Council meeting in Paris—and this may have been almost its most important achievement—began the process of restoring and strengthening that co-operation after the strains and interruptions to it brought about by the Suez crisis. It is essential that this process should continue.

We now have a great opportunity to profit from the unhappy experiences of the recent past by taking steps to ensure that those experiences will not be repeated.

Perhaps I should not close, Mr. Speaker, without at least mentioning—and there will be time only to mention it—a fourth factor which bears strongly on the formulation and execution of Canadian foreign policy. I refer to the fact that we are a neighbour of the United States on the North American Continent.

Canadian-U.S. Relations

On our relations with the United States my colleagues and I have often spoken over the last few years. I think we have made it abundantly clear that our acknowledgement of the United States as the inevitable and indispensable leader of the free world does not at all imply automatic agreement with all its policies. I have even been told by some of my friends below the line that we have a tendency to make this fact almost unnecessarily clear. On the other hand, it seems to me to be difficult to imagine a really critical situation in international affairs, one which involved final questions of war or peace, on which we should be likely to diverge very widely from the attitude of our neighbours. If we had to, for Canadian purposes, we would certainly be in a most uneasy position. For us in Canada, therefore, to formulate and try to follow foreign policies which do not take into account the closeness of all the ties which link us—and must do so—with the United States, would surely be nothing but unrealistic and unprofitable jingoism. The time when we can comfortably enjoy this particular form of national indulgence seems to me to have long since disappeared.

In our relations, then, with the Commonwealth, with the United Nations, with NATO, and with the United States, we have the fullest liberty to propose, to persuade, to advise, to object; and this liberty I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, we have used and shall use whenever a Canadian interest requires it. We will not, however, be using this freedom for the benefit of our country if we try to secede or weaken from our international commitments or if we try to ignore or take away from the geographic and economic facts of life on this continent. Membership in the international associations to which we belong undoubtedly brings us nationally very great advantages in terms of security and progress. The national advantages are, however, coupled with international responsibilities. I think, Mr. Speaker, that Canada's record in the discharge of those responsibilities over the years has been a good one and I am sure it will continue to be so.

Statement by Prime Minister

Speaking in the House of Commons on January 9, Prime Minister St. Laurent reported to the Members of Parliament on his recent conversations on international affairs with President Eisenhower, of the United States, and Prime Minister Nehru, of India. Excerpts from the Prime Minister's remarks follow:

... I was very happy to have this confidential chat with the President which occurred on the eve of Mr. Nehru's visit. I said to the President quite frankly that I believed he and Mr. Nehru at the present time were probably . . . the two most influential statesmen in the world, the two statesmen whose influence radiated the most widely in the free world at this time. I said, "Of course, I am not saying anything about China be-