

Western Response Intelligent

Western diplomacy has, I think, reacted intelligently to the new opportunities offered in this situation - opportunities for contacts and understanding, for a supple, diversified range of policies to meet each case, instead of an ineffective, precast formula to "roll back the Iron Curtain" that increases fears behind it and therefore only serves to re-establish the Curtain in all its severity. I only wish that in respect of Far Eastern policy there was as wide a measure of agreement on both sides of the Atlantic as there now is about our policies towards Eastern Europe, for, where there are serious differences among us, the left hand may undo what the right hand is labouring to accomplish. The result is waste of effort, bitterness, disunity and danger.

To return to Europe, however, the idea of Europe - and not just Western Europe - still has power. President Johnson said last month that lasting peace depends on "rebuilding an all-European civilization within its historic boundaries". I expect that this is true, especially if in the process of remaking Europe as a whole we can take a corresponding step towards an Atlantic community. For it is fundamental to a Canadian point of view - and I hope also to yours - that the lesson of interdependence is applied not on a continental basis alone but by moving towards an Atlantic community.

The Western Europeans are on the move. They want to transcend their warring national histories; and the pull of this big idea is felt also in Eastern Europe. But can there be any doubt that free Europe has far more in common with us in North America than it has with the Communist countries of Eastern Europe?

All that is so far lacking is sufficient interest and will on this side of the Atlantic to move from a military alliance towards building a community with Western Europe. We in Canada, and you in the United States, will pay a high price for our shortsightedness if, because we did not see the opportunity, the tides of continentalism on both sides of the Atlantic come in again, bringing new kinds of nationalism and isolationism in their wake.

Diplomacy - the "peace diplomacy" our countries are trying to follow - requires a broad vision and a sense of history. But it also demands day-by-day attention to the dangers, large and small, that threaten the peace. The big dangers, like Cuba in October 1962, must be confronted by the big powers, by you. But the more frequent little dangers, that could grow into big ones if not checked, are where we come in.

Peace Role of Canada

Canada has in fact taken an active part in almost every United Nations peace-keeping operation since they began. We are a middle power, as the phrase goes, neither colonial nor yet aggressively anti-colonial, neither too strong nor too weak. So when the United Nations fire alarm sounds, it happens that Canada is usually asked to go.