

And since the war, we have given assistance to our friends in the form of grants, gifts, or credits equivalent in terms of your national income to nearly forty billions of dollars.

Both in Europe and in Korea, Canada is bearing its own substantial share of the common burden. The Canadian contribution may be small measured in absolute terms compared with the huge effort of the United States. But no country in the world of our size and position is doing more in practical terms to fulfil its international obligations and responsibilities, and we are doing it at a time when the development of new resources presents us with a new and great challenge and takes up much of our energy and our strength.

We feel this effort is necessary because, at this point in the middle of the twentieth century, Canada sees - across the Atlantic and the Pacific - an international picture full of tension and potential danger, coming to sharp focus in Asia, where actual fighting is going on. The search for peace dominates our national consciousness. It is a search which can only end in success - (and this is true even for the most powerful of states) - if it is undertaken jointly with others, and if all who share in it are equipped for the task - not merely with weapons, but with understanding and vision and steadfastness.

In my remarks I have mentioned three of the most important of the associations to which Canada belongs: the Commonwealth, NATO, the United Nations. Each of these has its distinctive contribution to make to the outcome of this search.

THE COMMONWEALTH

This uncommon - indeed unique - association of free and independent states is rooted deep in our history. In the contemporary world, it has an importance and a value which no one should underestimate in adding up the resources of the free world.

Unlike the United Nations, unlike NATO, the Commonwealth has no formal machinery, no treaty binding its members, no specific commitments. In its very freedom - and in its diversity - lie its power and the influence which it can wield for good in the world today. The sovereign countries of the Commonwealth are found in every continent, and contain vast populations, with people of every race. This changing Commonwealth, which links free Asia with the Free West, has proved its vigour and usefulness, not only to its own members but to the world, by its capacity for solving practical problems and for adapting its outward forms to meet new needs.

The modern Commonwealth is no narrow group aiming to improve its position at the expense of others. It is a widely representative association, aware of the great range of conditions throughout most of the world, seeking to find some basis on which national actions can be taken in the light of the needs of international co-operation; linking together Asia and the West when links of this kind are so sorely needed.

NATO

Then there is NATO. Canada looks to NATO as the shield of its own defence in Europe and the Atlantic area, and as the nucleus of a community of peace-loving Atlantic states co-operating for the common good. NATO threatens no one, for none of its members has aggressive intentions. Its purpose is to reduce fear and tension in the face of threats and provocation. Whatever has been achieved to this end in Europe since 1949 is due to the determination of the United States and the other members of the NATO coalition to build and to maintain a powerful deterrent force against aggression in free Europe.