

Western world is something these countries should always bear in mind.

Canada cannot be indifferent to the aims and aspirations of those seeking either the economic development of their territories or the self-government of dependent territories. We ourselves have progressed rapidly along the road of economic development. We also progressed steadily along the path of self-government, commencing as a colony of one race conquered by men of another race and ending as a nation in which the two races are welded together in complete mastery of their own destiny. In our history therefore, we have learned that progress on sound lines has to be gradual and that the conditions have to be right before one step can be followed by another. We know how difficult it is for free nations to achieve all that they would like to when so much of their time and effort must be directed to the accomplishment of the primary aim of security.

The main prerequisite of the foreign policy of any country is that it should reflect the aims and aspirations of the citizens of that country. That this is the case for the foreign policy of Canada is demonstrated by the unanimity with which there is agreement in Parliament on the objectives of our external relations. There may be disagreements on some of the methods of achieving these aims, but not on the aims themselves. This unanimity on the aims of our foreign policy proves that we have achieved an internal reconciliation of what may once have been conflicting views. It also indicates that the aims of our foreign policy are recognized by Canadians to be in the long-range interests of the country. A fairly depressing catalogue could be compiled of foreign policy decisions taken by various governments which, because of the strength of a particular group or of a particular region, ran contrary to the long-range interests of the country concerned. The most important single factor in the foreign policy of any country is the need to maintain national unity. Those responsible for giving effect to that foreign policy must be careful, on the one hand, not to make a minority group feel that the majority is riding rough-shod over its interests and, at the same time, must avoid making the majority feel that their deference to the feelings of a minority has been an undue restraint. No doubt it is because of adherence to these basic principles that Canada today stands so high in the councils of the world. This, I am sure, must be a satisfaction to an institution which is fully representative of things Canadian - and that, Gentlemen, can be said of the Canadian Club of Toronto.

---

S/C