

Such improvement has certainly taken place. Startling, indeed, is the contrast between the arduous 7-weeks crossing of the Atlantic by the sailing vessels of the early 19th century and the speed of the jet aircraft which recently made the same crossing in something over three hours - and then turned round and flew back across the Atlantic the same afternoon, reaching Canada, by the clock, before it had left Britain. In internal transport, there has been an equally startling progression from canoe to Durham boat, to steamship, and on to the RCAF aircraft which recently flew from Winnipeg to Ottawa in less than 2 hours.

The effect of all this has been to annihilate distance between Canada and countries abroad, and within our own borders. But in our thinking, in the social sciences we still live in a world which considers Jules Verne's "Around the World in Eighty Days" as a piece of imaginative fiction.

Professor Toynbee, historian and philosopher, has recently shown how this revolution in communications has operated to "shrink the geography of the globe". The former English Channel, he writes, which was still an effective strategic obstacle as recently as 1940, has now become almost as invisible as the jet plane that now streaks across it at 40,000 feet and at 600 miles per hour. The British Isles have been reduced to the former dimensions, and have been parked in the former location of what used to be called the Channel Islands. North America has now succeeded Britain as an island moored between two oceans. The Atlantic Ocean is now the channel.

Technologically, then, we are doing all right. But in our economic and political arrangements, based on the old notion of national and competing and omnipotent sovereignties, we have moved very slowly to catch up with technology. We have moved, in the free world, and in the right direction, but we have a long way to go and the time may be short. Indeed because of technological advance, especially in communications, the time is too short for almost anything.

It is against the background of this revolutionary development in technology, including communications, that I wish to say a word about one or two of the obligations which I think it imposes on us.

On the economic plane, our first task is to recognize the interdependence of national economies, and to provide machinery and procedures which will reflect this interdependence in our arrangements with one another. We can begin close to home by looking at the trade and communications picture between Canada and the United States.

So far as the communications side of the picture is concerned, I should like to say a word about only one matter, the St. Lawrence Seaway and Power Project.

The great expansion of industry in Canada since the war has brought with it increasing need for power of all kinds and particularly for the cheap hydro-electric power which has been so important a factor in the economic growth of the Great Lakes area. If the momentum of this expansion in the whole Great Lakes-St. Lawrence basin is to be maintained, we must continue to provide ever-increasing