

In such a world, an explosion is inevitable. Self interest apart, the West has a responsibility in helping the new countries to help themselves. The NATO members have a continuing responsibility here for co-operation, consultation and assistance.

Finally, there are our own alliance and relations between the NATO countries. My own views of the need for an outward-looking transatlantic community are well known and I would only make two points. The first relates to attitude. Unless each of us has the will and conviction to work for such a community, no mere tinkering with the machinery of the alliance, of appointing "wise men" to produce formulas for quick action, is going to be of any avail. My other point relates to what I might call modern European and North American myths. Some in Europe think that any Atlantic system is bound to be an American-dominated system with no responsible role for Europe. Some on this side of the water think that the North American commitment to Europe must involve indefinitely the New World having to continue to redress the balance in the Old. At this point in history such views are outdated. If the West is to develop as a partnership of free sovereign nations united in a common approach to the problems of the thermonuclear and space age, we must accept that the Atlantic Ocean is a two-way thoroughfare and that the countries of Europe and North America must learn to practise a consultative partnership looking to the future as more important - even for their own national development - than a too exclusive preoccupation with the national glory and pride in the past.

May I wish your tenth assembly the greatest of success in its work? I hope that your meetings will be a contribution to the debate that must take place between our peoples and governments on the policies that are required to ensure that the Western coalition remains strong and unified to meet the challenges of the last part of the twentieth century.

I quote a few words on this point from the report of the Committee of Three on Non-Military Co-operation, 1956:

"The fundamental historical fact today is that the nation state, by itself and relying exclusively on national policy and national power, is inadequate for progress or even for survival in the nuclear age. As the founders of the North Atlantic Treaty foresaw, the growing interdependence of states, politically and economically as well as militarily, calls for an ever-increasing measure of international cohesion and co-operation. Some states may be able to enjoy a degree of political and economic independence when things are going well. No state, however powerful, can guarantee its security and its welfare by national action alone."