

in the field of defence, the situation is vastly different. No one country or no few countries within the Commonwealth could really defend themselves completely in this thermo-nuclear age.

In addition to these ties, there are personal ties between the peoples of the Commonwealth. Men and women who have served in the forces in two and more wars have a special feeling for these Commonwealth relationships. In peace, there have been bonds forged by immigration, by settlement and, in special circumstances, as a result of what was done on occasions such as the American War of Independence, when so many people who were living in the country immediately to the south of our border decided that the British institutions were for them, and as United Empire Loyalists they came to Canada and settled here. Their descendants, happily, are still with us.

I think also there is a special meaning in the Commonwealth idea for Canadians who speak the French language. As I said just the other day, more than 200 years ago, in the terms of the capitulation of Montreal and of Quebec, the language, laws and religion of the 60,000 former French subjects who were living in this country were guaranteed their preservation when the British took over. This is something we cannot forget in this country. It was a forerunner of what has happened and what has been happening in our time in other underdeveloped countries. Canada, at that time, was an underdeveloped country. This step was consecrated in the Quebec Act. I have read the report of the debate in the committee of the British house when these provisions were made in the Quebec Act. It was something completely new. Britain herself was embarking on a new approach to the position of people in the colonies some 200 years ago.

I believe that by common consent the Commonwealth not only can be but is a force for the good. Its most significant impact, however, is a spiritual one. It is a western force, a force that is based on the highest ideals upon which western civilization has been founded. A few years ago there was a meeting in Ottawa of the Commonwealth Bar Association. Judges and lawyers came here from all the far-flung parts of the Commonwealth. The principal British guest was the then Lord Chancellor, Lord Kilmuir. I was talking to him about this. He wondered whether these meetings of lawyers and judges from all over the Commonwealth were of value, and whether the Commonwealth concept itself would survive. Neither of us was a prophet. I said to him what I have just said, that there are many reasons for optimism, but perhaps the real appeal is that which is based upon

matters of the spirit. If you have that kind of bond, then the other bonds will become stronger.

Of necessity, new international associations have been born in the modern world, particularly since the last war. They have been born of crises. Because they have been put together in this way, and without the bond which I believe exists between the members of the Commonwealth, often there is difficulty in making them work. For this reason, I believe that as time goes on the old association between members of the Commonwealth will be more fully appreciated and valued.

There are opportunities for mutual help between members of the Commonwealth. I think the most recent example is one to which we gave our assent earlier this year, when the Canadian peace-keeping force was sent to Cyprus. Britain, mainly, was trying to maintain order in that troubled country. But the requirements for similar British intervention in Asia and Africa were straining her capacity to perform. We did this, first, to assist in helping keep the peace, but we also did it to help a fellow member of the Commonwealth assist a strife-torn member of the Commonwealth.

The importance of the Commonwealth to Canada can be stressed in many ways. One of our colleagues who has spent some time at the United Nations has pointed this out to me in connection with the Commonwealth seat on the Security Council at the United Nations. There is no problem for the great powers, including Britain, to assure themselves of the representation they feel they require on the Security Council. But at times there is difficulty for Canada. She is not considered to be one of the great powers. She must depend upon the regional groupings to get a seat on the Security Council by rotation. Because of the importance of her membership in the Commonwealth she can at times cut across international boundaries and provide in this way an opportunity for herself to be a continuing force for the good. It may be that Canada stands to gain more by her membership in the Commonwealth than any fellow member.

Honourable senators, this resolution emphasizes all that I have said. At the Coronation ceremony when Her Majesty was crowned, she was described as the Queen of the United Kingdom and Canada. She was also described as the Head of the Commonwealth. The Union Jack, the Union Flag, according to the Garter King of Arms is the royal flag—Her Majesty's flag. As honourable senators have pointed out these last few days, it is a symbolic flag. It contains the crosses of St. George, St. Andrew and St. Patrick. It is an ancient flag, invested with