

educational relations. Canada is accepted and welcomed by nations in many different parts of the world as a participant in important ventures. Those who ask whether we have an independent identity before the world must consider all this evidence of decision, action and participation in international affairs.

We have fulfilled the terms set forth by Sir Robert Borden, full sovereignty and service to the world.

There is, finally, one aspect to this question of maintaining independence which is not really one of foreign policy but rather of the domestic conditions supporting an effective foreign policy. There will never be complete agreement in the country as to the exact course of action which we should follow in any major problem of international affairs. I should hope, however, that we should agree on certain fundamental requirements in the national interest. One is that there can be only one official voice speaking for Canada on foreign policy in matters of national interest when the decisions have been made. The other -- and I realize that this is a matter of judgment or degree -- is that we might well agree, in view of the weight of evidence available, that Canada does have its own independent policies and its own role in world affairs and that we should concentrate rather on debating the most effective means in any given case to serve the national interest.

I have attempted to set before you the dimensions of independence in foreign policy -- the proof of it in specific international problems, the conditions on which it rests in our existence as a nation. It will be apparent that, in the contemporary world, independence is as many-sided as freedom itself. There is the freedom to agree as well as to disagree; the freedom to consult and not only to go it alone; the freedom to show self-restraint as well as to assert ourselves ostentatiously; the freedom to make our voice heard but also the freedom to remain silent; the freedom to assess the consequences of our acts and utterances and not to behave as though we could be entirely unmindful of the reactions of others; the freedom to recognize the facts of our geography and not to imagine that we are a detached island in space.

The objective of an independent country in the dangerous world in which we live should surely be to make the greatest possible contribution to peace and security and not merely to flaunt a hollow independence for its own sake. In the modern world, independence exists not so much to be displayed as to be used -- and to be used responsibly and effectively.

I believe that the statesmen who first charted the course of our independence saw our destiny as a nation in this way and that the people of Canada today would wish its Government to act always in the spirit of civilized patriotism and of enlightened internationalism.