

We can be happy, then, that our relations with the Commonwealth members remain so close and so friendly. But there is another country with which our relations must also remain close and friendly, and that is our neighbour, the United States. We have a special responsibility here too, not only because these relations are so fundamental to our joint security and prosperity but also because the United States is the leader of our free world coalition and is bearing the greatest share of the burden to maintain peace. These relations with the United States are becoming more and more important to both countries, and more varied and more complicated. That was inevitable, as the state of the world has changed, as our own progress towards economic and political strength has accelerated, and as we become more important in the scheme of things. Naturally, therefore these relations with the United States have become more important and more complicated for us. We should not be surprised or discouraged by that. We will work out these problems, these increasing problems--these problems of security against attack, security against subversion, of trade and communications, of border crossings--we will work them out with less difficulty if we keep constantly in mind how great our dependence is on each other for safety and prosperity, if we in Canada do not forget on our side the heavy burden of leadership and responsibility which the United States is carrying, and if our neighbours remember that partnership and co-operation are a two-way process and, above all--and this is a simple rule--if neither partner asks the other to do what it would not like to be asked to do itself.

One important specific problem at the moment in our relations with the United States which has been causing us a good deal of concern is that of the St. Lawrence Seaway. As hon. members know, we have now reached a point where the only thing that stands in the way of the beginning of Canadian construction of that seaway is an appeal before the courts of the United States. We have just learned today that the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia Circuit Court has delivered judgment on the appeal brought against the order of the Federal Power Commission granting a licence to the power authority of the State of New York. The court has denied the appeal, and confirmed the order of the Federal power commission. This removes the second last legal obstacle to the development of power in the International Section which is an essential preliminary to the development of the seaway itself. That is the way in which we have, over the years, been able to settle our difficulties with our neighbour, and I am satisfied we will be able to settle them in the same friendly spirit in the days to come. We must certainly do our best to face and solve these complicated Canadian-United States questions, these neighbourly difficulties, with that minimum of bickering and maximum of goodwill which has been characteristic in this century of relations between the two countries.

If Canada and the United States cannot grow closer together in friendship, in mutual respect and in the understanding on which friendship must rest, there is not much chance for peace and stability in the rest of the world. But we can solve our problems with our neighbour in a reasonable manner, and there is somewhat more hope for peace and stability in the world than existed a year ago. We can take some comfort from this, as we face the numerous problems before us, and so long as we do not forget that the world still remains an unsafe place for the weak, the weary and the unwary.