

what it owes to the United Kingdom for originating and directing this process—which, of course, has not been completed. I can assure you that Canada is happy about its position in the Commonwealth and has no desire to see that position weakened. To us it means independence to which something else has been added.

Not a Static Association

The Commonwealth has never been a static association. It has been able to adapt itself to changing conditions and thereby influence those conditions. In recent years its value has increased, and taken on a new significance, by the membership of India, Pakistan and Ceylon, and by the steady move toward qualification for such membership of other Asian and African political groups.

In this way the Commonwealth provides a bridge—at a time when there are all too few of them, and when they are desperately needed—a bridge between Asia and the West.

Another impulse to international community development comes from the realization by contiguous nations, with shared political ideas and traditions and interests, that they would be much more adequately equipped to face the political and economic problems, and exploit the political and economic possibilities of today if they could remove the boundaries and barriers between them: in short, become integrated.

The contemporary illustration of this trend which first springs to mind is, of course, the move toward European unity. It is a move which must surely commend itself first of all to Europeans themselves, who must remember best how much their continent has suffered from disunity; more especially from the tragic feud over the centuries between Gaul and Teuton. The movement will also, I believe, be welcomed by non-Europeans of good will—this certainly includes Canadians—who see in it not merely the strengthening of the shield against aggression from the East, but also a more solid foundation for the prosperity and progress of the united peoples of Western Europe who are such a vital part of the Atlantic community. I hasten to add, however, that as a strong believer in the freest possible kind of international trade, Canada's approval of the economic aspects of European integration, without which I suppose the political could not take place, is given on the assumption that in this case the whole, while greater, could not be higher, more restrictive, than its parts. I am thinking of restrictions in the way of trade, of course, about which a country which exports as Can-

ada does, about one third of its gross national product takes a somewhat jaundiced view, one which would be fully understood by a country like the United Kingdom which has flourished and grown great by its commerce with all parts of the world.

We should, I think, favour European unity for another reason. Western Europe has great resources of wisdom, strength and energy which, along with its traditions of freedom and culture, qualify it to play a powerful and constructive part today in world affairs. It can play this part most effectively, if the area of united or at least closely co-ordinated political action is enlarged.

This enlargement therefore is something which, I think, we should encourage and support, without—and I am talking now about North Americans—being too insistent in our advice as to how it should be done, or becoming too impatient if it is not done overnight. After all, as Mr. Bulganin reminded us last week, 'Moscow was not built in a day'. I do not myself see anything in this move to European unity which should hinder in any way the growth and coming-together of the Atlantic community. Quite the contrary. Nor do I see anything necessarily inconsistent between the closest possible association of the United Kingdom with this European development, and the maintenance and even strengthening of its ties with the rest of the Commonwealth.

I appreciate, of course, that while this country is part of Europe—history provides grim as well as glorious reminders of that connection—it has also a wider destiny and wider interests. The world owes much—some states indeed owe their very existence—to the fact that the vision of the British people has ranged across the oceans as well as across the channel. I do not forget this debt when I express the hope that this country, so rich in political sagacity, so steeped in political experience, and which has provided Europe with with imaginative leadership more than once in history, will play an active and constructive part in the efforts now being made by European states to adapt themselves to new conditions which require their closer association. Such a part would represent an important contribution to the development of something more important and far-reaching even than European unity itself—namely the Atlantic community.

Three Essential Parts

I see in that community three essential parts: a North America which must not lapse into continentalism; a Europe whose free and democratic countries must achieve the