

This struggle between freedom and despotism is seldom clear cut and is often confused and complicated by other issues. But in our generation the lines have been pretty clearly drawn and the battle has been waged, first against Pan-German Imperialism; then against Nazi and Fascist tyranny; and now against the brutal enslavement of mind and body which is the dread result of aggressive international communism.

It is this struggle which we must win in order to establish the foundation of enduring peace; it is this struggle that colours every aspect of national and international life in 1948. It expresses itself within states in the attempt to overthrow popular and parliamentary democracy and to set up, by force, police despotisms. It shows itself internationally in the aggressive and subversive designs of communist governments against countries which will not accept their reactionary doctrines. It is not without significance that the states most determined at international conferences to diminish the rights of others and exalt their own, are those which at home have the most lawless and autocratic governments.

Even in this favoured land of Canada we cannot wholly escape this issue between freedom and slavery. Freedom, like peace, is indivisible. If it is destroyed anywhere, it is weakened everywhere. What can we do about it? At home, we must so organize our own resources, human and material; we must keep our own house in such good order, that communism will have little on which to feed. We must prove that our brand of democracy, free parliamentary democracy, has done more and can do far more to increase the happiness and well-being of the average man, than communism or fascism, and their totalitarian regimentation ever can do. This should be possible - even easy - if - and this is a big if - we work at democracy and freedom like the communist zealots work at their destroying trade. A Russian communist who has become a free Canadian has written, "Why should Canada turn to Communism? It appears to have infinitely more than the Soviet in every way."

Our first duty, then, is to make democracy work at home. Canada can play an effective part abroad only if she is free, strong, prosperous and united on the home front.

With that priority established, however, we cannot, and should not, escape our obligations as a member of the international community. We must play our part for peace, because to no country is peace more important in every way than it is to Canada. But we must not forget that peace cannot be preserved by national action alone. We must also play our part in the promotion of international trade, for to no country is such trade more essential for prosperity than to Canada. But trade too, and hence prosperity, cannot be assured by national action alone.

So, for peace and for prosperity, Canada is inevitably involved in international affairs. Without any display of self-importance or excessive national pride, we must show - as we have shown - a genuine desire to co-operate with other people who show a like desire to co-operate with us.

Let us look at the second point first, co-operation for prosperity. There is an immediate and vital relation between Canada's external policy and the material welfare of Canadians. A most compelling reason for every Canadian to become interested in international matters is the simple fact, so often stated, that approximately one-third of our total production has to be sold in foreign markets. I need say no

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