

conflict have retained a place in popular historical folklore. Nevertheless, a certain difference in outlook has developed and has become almost traditional in Canadian thinking. The difference is partly the result of the greater relative importance to Canada of maintaining peaceful relations with a much more powerful neighbour and of our satisfaction that, on the whole, reasonable and equitable solutions have been reached without the pressure which a greater power might have applied upon a lesser. We have come to expect reasonable and fair treatment from the United States, though admittedly sometimes only after intense effort in presenting our views. On the other hand, during the long period of United States withdrawal and aloofness from world affairs, although we were also primarily interested, as I have said, in "cultivating our own gardens", we, in Canada, maintained I think a greater interest in the affairs of the outside world. This was partly owing to our greater dependence on British and European markets and partly because of our membership in the Commonwealth.

In the past, then we observe a history marked largely by the co-operation of two neighbours submitting disputes upon which they could not agree, to impartial adjudication -- or at least to adjudication by as impartial a tribunal as could be found. Until now, the differences in our traditions and in our forms of government and in our relative size have scarcely entered into our dealings with one another. As neighbours, our business was chiefly concerned with the division or control of tangible assets. Policy in such matters is relatively simple and our differences have rarely led us into prolonged or indeed serious disagreements.

There is a further internal difference which must be borne in mind and that is that Canada is a partnership of two great races, French and English, augmented by representatives from many other races. The two large groups, the French and English, have not always been in complete accord about external policies, but the disagreement has always been composed. Any Government of Canada has to consider whether a particular course should be followed against the opposition of a considerable number of the people if one or other of the groups does not support that policy, or whether compromise is necessary in order to gain the support of not only a majority of opinion but of a reasonably large majority of opinion. The business of making sure that our two large groups are in step is an essential factor in any estimate of what Canada's policies might be. Nevertheless, it is proper to say that the growth of tolerance and understanding has been most remarkable in Canada in the past few years. There are few Canadians in any group who now distrust the motives of the other groups. At the moment there is no difference of opinion about our external policies. Both the French-speaking Province of Quebec and the English-speaking Province of Ontario support the efforts being made through NATO to prevent a third world war.

It follows therefore that if any particular policy is suggested by others and we are not the first to agree to it, you will understand that this comes from our desire to make absolutely sure of the position at home. On the other hand, if after a period of careful study and consideration we make a statement of our intentions, this may be accepted at face value. Our Parliamentary system places the support of the majority party behind such a declaration - and no Government in Canada has ever had its external policy reversed