

Secondly, for United States action, the agency which is to be responsible for the construction of the United States part of the power development must obtain a licence from the United States Power Commission. The procedure for obtaining such a licence involves public hearings before the Commission, to which all interested parties must be given an opportunity to present their views.

And thirdly, for United States action again, an application by the agency responsible for the construction in the United States must be transmitted for approval by the United States government to the International Joint Commission in conjunction with a similar application by Ontario.

So far as Canadian action is concerned, that part of it which is a responsibility of the Federal Government will be pressed without any delay. That is all I wish to say this afternoon though I could say much more if time permitted, on our relations with our great and friendly neighbour.

Relations with the Commonwealth

May I say a word at this time about our relations with the nations of the Commonwealth? Those are, as usual, on a good and friendly basis. There is full exchange of information and adequate consultation. We are satisfied with the existing position. ...

There is nothing static about our Commonwealth of Nations, nor is there anything static in Canada's attitude to this Commonwealth of Nations. ... Our attitude has I think altered somewhat toward the Commonwealth in recent years. During the period when Canadian political leaders of all parties were achieving and consolidating autonomy for Canada in her domestic, and later in her external relations, it was I think natural that appreciation of the value of the Commonwealth association should not exclude in many quarters some degree of what I might call wariness. This wariness was kept alive by repeated proposals for centralized machinery which would have given institutional form to the very close and continuous, but often informal, co-operation which existed between the members of the Commonwealth. Canada consistently opposed these proposals, because, to many Canadians, collective action in those days seemed likely to be overly influenced by imperialist interests, also because such Commonwealth arrangements might have appeared to be an obstacle to closer co-operation with the United States. Though Canadian opinion is I think as strongly opposed as ever to a separate and centralized Commonwealth, that problem is no longer a serious one because the new Commonwealth, with its three Asian members, lends itself less to centralizing proposals than the old one did.

The nature of the present-day Commonwealth, based on complete freedom of its members, along with the accepted obligations of those members to work together to the greatest possible extent, is now well understood in all the member countries. For this reason, I think the reservations and indeed even the hesitations that have sometimes marked Canada's attitude in the past have largely died away. At the present time Canadians have been discovering new and positive advantages in their membership in this association of free nations. The life blood of the modern Commonwealth is constant exchange of information, free and full consultation and a strong and genuine desire to co-operate. That process brings Canada into