

*External Affairs*

ready to express my appreciation of the contribution made by our own Canadian representatives to the drafting of the details of that vitally important international agreement. That pact is a challenge to stir the imagination of freedom-loving people, whether they live in the countries that are now free or are in slavery behind the iron curtain.

One of the things which it seems to me we must keep in our minds, to an extent that has not been true in the past, generally at any rate, is that it would be a very uncertain picture of future peace which we could build up before our own people, if the most we could hope for would be an armed camp on this side of the iron curtain with the nations on the other side of the iron curtain continuing their form of slavery indefinitely through the years ahead. I think that in addition to preserving peace for ourselves the ultimate ideal in the mind of every one of us must be that out of that peace which we preserve for the people who are now free there will also in due course come freedom to those nations which are now enslaved.

To us in Canada comes a unique challenge. As one of the strongest nations of the British partnership and the closest friend of the United States, geographically, sentimentally, and by ties of blood, we have an opportunity to play a role out of all proportion to our population. Since we have neither the immense responsibility of the United States nor the close geographical proximity to Russian power of the United Kingdom it should be possible for us to guide our course in a way which will help to bring together in closer and closer harmony the two most powerful nations in the western world.

The first consideration in all our dealings with the United Kingdom and the United States should be the negative policy of doing nothing which will cause friction or misunderstanding, or fan the dangerous flame of criticism which is already threatening to consume some of the good will and mutual confidence which has been so successfully built up in both those countries during the years of war and since that time. In the case of both the United Kingdom and the United States, there has been criticism by members of the government recently which has not increased harmony at all between ourselves and those two nations, or between those two nations themselves. Unwarranted criticism of the good faith of the British government in connection with any contract between Canada and the United Kingdom, or criticism of the government of the United States for any supposed slights upon Canada

[Mr. Drew.]

at this time, will not help to build that positive good will and understanding which should be the main purpose of Canadian diplomacy and of all the work of the Department of External Affairs.

If there are facts behind the criticism which has been directed toward the government of the United States, then let us have them out in the open now. Let us discuss them frankly, let us say what should be done, and then let us hope that we may for all time put an end to petty bickering of this kind at a time when the very survival of civilization and all that we hold dear in Canada and throughout the free world is challenged as it is at this hour. Then let us proceed on a positive and clearly defined course of calm, sustained and vigorous effort to create harmony and good will, and to employ our unparalleled opportunity here in Canada to be the friendly interpreter and the strong linchpin between the United States, Great Britain and the whole continent of Europe.

At a time when communist propagandists are doing their utmost to create distrust of the motives of the United States in countries for which the United States has done so very much in these past few years, let it never be said that without due regard for the consequences we should ever appear to give succour or to give supporting evidence to those who are trying to create the impression in Europe and elsewhere that behind United States charity the ambition of world imperialism lurks in the minds of their government.

The supreme challenge facing free men and women throughout the whole world today is to do all that is humanly possible with the utmost speed to establish that measure of true international unity which is the one hope of stemming the tide of communist aggression, no matter how quickly we may be able to build up the combined force of arms of these nations. I am sure that it will be the hope of all of us that we may be able to establish a completely united policy for Canada in international affairs. I have been critical of comments which it seems to me might actually assist those who are seeking to undermine day by day the full understanding and confidence between the governments of the United States and Canada as well as between the peoples of the United States and Canada. The last thing I would suggest is that any such purpose was in the mind of the Secretary of State for External Affairs or anyone else who made a similar speech.

I believe it was my duty to express the opinion I have expressed because I have read, as many others have read, surprised