

The presence of Britain in the European Economic Community and through it in Europe as a society, will, I believe, lend a far more European note to European world policy than the colouration General de Gaulle gives that policy now in a practically unchallenged way. The voice of Europe needs to be heard again, as such, and I doubt that this will happen unless Britain's European Economic Community application is successful. It is alarming for us in the United States to see one man, President de Gaulle, giving a twist to Europe on world policy as archaic as Metternich and as mischievous as de Gaulle. The rest of Europe wants Britain but President de Gaulle is unwilling to accept the competition of British leadership in policy-making with its wider vision and deeper insight.

But we, in the United States, I feel, have every interest in seeing Britain remain vigorous and becoming even more productive. The tremendous experience and skill which she has acquired during centuries in world affairs must continue to be utilised in the cause of peace and of regional and international co-operation. It dismays many Americans to see economic reasons compelling Britain to consider withdrawing from East of the Suez—and trimming back such of its responsibilities in Germany as it would otherwise carry. It is sad, too, that Western Europe is not playing its full part in co-operation with North America in providing needed assistance to the developing nations and in world trade, technology and science.

When will the people of Europe—and even the people of the United Kingdom—understand that my fellow countrymen do not glory in the responsibilities which they now carry so heavily in the world? When will they understand that we are more than anxious to share this responsibility—not only as to its burdens but also as to whatever benefits and glory it may bring? There is no imperial spirit in the United States. This should be clearly understood in Europe and in Britain.

By every measure Britain seems to me to have reached a crossroads of its national life. British industry needs modernisation both in terms of machinery and manpower. The requirements of maintaining a modern defence establishment and sustained domestic growth place a heavy burden on the British economy and Britain's balance of payments. It seems now to be widely accepted among the British people, whether Labour or Tory, that Britain must take steps to deal with the dangers of the erosion of British energies.

By taking the initiative to apply for Common Market membership, although long and difficult negotiations lay ahead, Britain signified its readiness to take the road that is more challenging. It is not every nation that invites competition to sharpen itself and enable it to compete in broader markets.

The American people, I feel, strongly support your government's decision to apply for Common Market membership and not only because British membership in the Common Market is vitally important to Britain in economic and political terms. In my judgment, the American people believe that this decision is vitally important to Europe as well, if Europe wishes to provide itself with the authority necessary to assume a significant share in the responsibilities of world leadership as well as to compete effectively in the world's markets.

Clearly, if Europe is to play a role commensurate with its traditions and combined power, the European Economic Community must include Britain and other European nations.

Beyond that, it is also my conviction that this greater Europe should eventually associate itself in some formal economic way with the other industrialised nations of the West. In our world, only these nations together possess the capital, the technical resources and manpower skills essential to the modernisation of the developing nations. Such modernisation, if accomplished in time, can win the race with the revolution of the have-nots, a revolution that often endangers world peace and is accompanied often by an erosion of freedom.

It should be kept clearly in mind, therefore, that the negotiations for United Kingdom membership in the European Economic Community are but one step in the process of forging closer links among Western European nations; and in turn, between Western Europe and the other industrialised nations of the free world, including the United States.

There will be those who will express serious doubt that under present conditions, Western economic unity can be established. I disagree. The successful conclusion of the Kennedy Round of trade negotiations in Geneva offers proof to the contrary. Here was a situation where the vital economic interests of the