

I would not wish to leave the impression that only Canada has experienced difficulties because of the procedural and institutional framework in which U.S. foreign policy is made – or “happens”, as the process might sometimes better be described. Lloyd N. Cutler, Counsel to President Carter, analyzes this framework in an article in the most recent issue of *Foreign Affairs*, in the light of the failure of his own efforts to get the SALT II [Strategic Arms Limitation Talks] treaty through Congress. He writes as follows:

“A particular shortcoming in need of a remedy is the structural inability of our government to propose, legislate and administer a balanced program for governing.... The separation of powers between the legislative and executive branches, whatever its merits in 1793, has become a structure that almost guarantees stalemate today.”

Mr. Cutler has dual qualifications to support his reaching this conclusion. In addition to his association with SALT II, he was the U.S. negotiator for the two east coast agreements with Canada, which continue to keep SALT II company in the limbo of the U.S. Senate.

Similarities
outweigh
differences

I already gave you my happy ending a minute ago – which is sure proof that I have gone on too long. I cannot end, however, on the note of stalemate evoked by Mr. Cutler. But since I do not have the temerity to follow his lead in proposing amendments to the U.S. Constitution, I am hard-pressed to strike a note of promise for the future. Yet that note exists, quite independently of any possible suggestions for restructuring the U.S. approach to foreign policy. I have stressed the differences between Canada and the U.S.A. in these remarks, but it is the similarities I rely upon. If this underlying optimism reflects pride in Canada, it also reflects faith in the U.S.A., confidence in our friendship, and the expectation that reason and fair play will again prevail.

Finally, given the number of academics with us today, I would not wish to conclude without saying how much we appreciate the growth of teaching and research about Canada in American universities. It is quite remarkable how much Canada has risen in academic popularity in the last decade. I would like to encourage more such studies, as I believe they lead to better understanding of Canadian interests and concerns, and therefore to a well-managed and mutually beneficial relationship.