

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me say first of all how delighted I am to be with you on the occasion of the first mid-winter meeting of the Canadian Bar Association ever to take place in St. John's. Please allow this local boy to join others in expressing to you a very warm welcome to Newfoundland.

The Canadian Bar Association celebrated last fall its eightieth anniversary. Canada was a much smaller and a very different country back in 1896. Many of us would not even have been Canadians then. Yet one of the principal aims of your founders was to promote uniformity of legislation throughout Canada and foster harmonious relations and cooperation among law societies and lawyers across the country. In other words, to work together in the legal field towards Canadian unity. In 1977, the Canadian Bar Association is to be congratulated for remaining committed to these original objectives and for being a truly national voice of the legal profession in Canada. That is why it occurred to me that members of your association might be receptive to some thoughts of mine on Canadian unity and particularly on how it relates to and is reflected in our foreign policy.

Law and policy are of course, intertwined, perhaps nowhere more so than on the international plane. I am kept very much aware of this relationship as we in the Department pursue Canadian interests abroad and more generally, the development of the rule of law in the world at large. To assist me in that quest, we have more than 100 legally-trained employees in the Department. Tonight, however, perhaps you will forgive me if I forego the legal terminology and diplomatic phraseology that I might have used if I was speaking on any one of a number of the complex international problems facing us. Instead I want to speak to you about Canada.

Canada, and Canadians are facing a world of rapid change, bewildering complexity and dramatic decision. In less than a generation, we have moved from the propellor to the atomic reactor, from the League of Nations to the United Nations, from unlimited exploitation of resources to conservation - we are approaching, indeed some would say, we have reached a critical point. Each day the radio, the television, the press carry this message into our homes. The