

Let us be clear about this. Contrary to a recent Atlantic Council report on the subject, the Canadian policies in investment and energy are not the product of short-term political expediency. The genesis of these policies can be traced back through at least two decades of spirited and intensive national debate. It would be a mistake to suppose that a Canadian government would be able or willing to resist the historical momentum of our country's growing determination to have the necessary amount of control over its own destiny.

Recriminatory rhetoric will get us nowhere -- except into a more excited and more nationalistic home environment.

It is the reality of the Canada-U.S. relationship that two different countries can grow separately in their own ways, yet retain bonds of friendship and respect through a common heritage of basic values - the sort we have protected together in two world wars, in Korea, in Iran, in NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) and NORAD (North American Aerospace Defence Command). Those values find their ultimate expression in the countless personal links which are the fabric of our relations. In the long run, those values and those personal links define the quality of our relationship.

Canada and the United States have followed distinct paths from the beginning. Our challenge has always been to contain and channel our disagreements so that they did not impede the steady flow of friendship. We must continue to accept this responsibility.

But we must do more. We must visualize our relationship, including our problems, in a world perspective, in a world of general turbulence in which like-minded countries are few enough that we cannot afford to be distracted from achieving together our common goals of freedom, justice, democracy, and friendship among all peoples.