

Even as recently as yesterday, when various financial measures were announced by our two governments, we had another example of the close and complex relations which exist between our two countries. In a situation in which some action had become necessary, co-operative efforts were made to ensure that continued expansion in our economies and in our economic relations with each other would not be impeded. You will no doubt have noticed that specific recognition was given to the high priority of the automotive programme. In many other respects as well, the unique economic and financial relations between Canada and the United States were recognized.

We in Canada naturally have an interest in the strength of the United States dollar as the world's greatest trading currency. Equally, you in the United States have an interest in the prosperity and economic growth of your neighbour. We Canadians have contributed and are continuing to contribute very substantially to the credit side of your balance of payments. To go on doing this we need access to United States capital to help meet our current deficit. Fortunately, with constructive co-operation between the authorities in the two countries, the new and temporary United States measures announced on December 6 maintain unlimited and unrestricted access for Canada to the United States capital market.

In the broader context of political relations and world affairs, there are considerations about relations between Canada and the United States which may appear elementary and obvious but which are worth repeating from time to time.

On the fundamental questions affecting the destiny of our two nations and the nature of our society, these relations are based on trust and friendship. Canadians want partnership with the United States in all the major fields in which that now exists, and could scarcely now conceive of any other type of basic relationship with their neighbour. They welcome the fact that the United States has achieved a position of great power, responsibility and leadership in the world and they understand that this responsibility carries with it the necessity of making very difficult decisions of concern both to the United States and other nations.

I believe that Americans understand that Canada, for its part, has a role in world affairs arising from its own traditions, contacts and commitments. Whether that role is seen in terms of actions as a middle power in the United Nations, or membership in the Commonwealth or NATO, the important point is that we have to arrive at our own judgments on world affairs. We do not make those judgments irresponsibly or without careful consideration of the views of our closest friends.

The partnership between Canada and the United States does not impede the United States in its role as a great power. We do not consider that it should inhibit us in playing our part in international affairs. On the contrary, the close and friendly relationship which exists between us provides a firm base for our action elsewhere.

These are some of the ingredients in Canadian-American relations. They are not created by any automatic processes nor are they dependent primarily on the machinery set up to administer our relations. They are dependent on the firm intention of governments, on a sustained effort to