

by far was born in Canada. Their vote is enough to determine the outcome of an election, even a presidential election. You can understand that having been elected president of the United States by less than 140,000 votes out of 60 million, I am very conscious of these statistics.

The warmth of your hospitality symbolizes more than the courtesy which may be accorded to an individual visitor. It symbolizes the enduring qualities of amity and honour which have characterized our countries' relations for so many decades. Nearly 40 years ago a distinguished prime minister of this country took the part of the United States at a disarmament conference. He said "They may not be angels, but they are at least our friends." I must say I do not think we have probably demonstrated in the 40 years since then that we are angels yet, but I hope we have demonstrated that we are at least friends.

I must say that in these days when hazard is our constant companion, I think friends are a very good thing to have. Your Prime Minister was the first of the leaders from other lands who was invited to call upon me shortly after I entered the White House, and this is my first trip as President—the first trip of my wife and myself—outside our own country's borders. It is just and fitting and appropriate and traditional that I should come here to Canada across a border which knows neither guns nor guerillas.

But we share more than a common border. We share a common heritage traced back to the early settlers who travelled from the beachheads of the maritime provinces and New England to the far reaches of the Pacific coast. Henry Thoreau spoke a common sentiment for them all: "Eastward I go only by force, westward I go free. And now I must walk towards Oregon and not towards Europe." We share common values from the past, a common defence line at present, and common aspirations for the future—our future, and indeed the future of all mankind.

Geography has made us neighbours. History has made us friends. Economics has made us partners. And necessity has made us allies. Those whom nature hath so joined together, let no man put asunder.

What unites us is far greater than what divides us. The issues and irritants that inevitably affect all neighbours are small indeed in comparison with the issues we face together, above all the sombre threat now posed to the whole neighbourhood of this continent and in fact to the whole community of nations. But our alliance is born not of fear but of hope. It is an alliance which advances what we are for, as well as opposing what we are against.

And so it is that when we speak of our mutual attitude and relationship, Canada and the United States speak in terms of unity. We do not seek the unanimity that comes to those who water down all issues to the lowest common denominator, or to those who conceal their differences behind fixed smiles, or to those who measure unity by standards of popularity and affection instead of trust and respect.

We are allies. This is a partnership, not an empire. We are bound to have differences and disappointments, and we are equally bound to bring them out into the open, to settle them when they can be settled, and to respect each other's views when they cannot be settled.

Thus ours is the unity of equal and independent nations, co-tenants of the same continent, heirs of the same legacy, and fully sovereign associates in the same historic endeavour; to preserve freedom for ourselves and all who wish it. To that endeavour we each must bring great material and human resources, the result of separate cultures and free economies. And, above all, that endeavour requires a free and full exchange of new and different ideas, a full and frank consultation on all issues and all undertakings. For it is clear that no free nation can stand alone to meet the threat of those who make themselves our adversaries, that no free nation can retain any illusions about the nature of that threat, and that no free nation can remain indifferent to the steady erosion of freedom around the globe.

It is equally clear that no western nation on its own can help those less developed lands fulfil their hopes for steady progress. And, finally, it is clear that, in an age when new forces are asserting their strength around the globe, when the political shape of the hemisphere is changing rapidly, nothing is more vital than the unity of your country and mine.

And so, my friends of Canada, whatever problems may exist or arise between us, I can assure you that my associates and I will be ever ready to discuss them with you and to take whatever steps we can to remove them. And whatever those problems may be, I can also assure you that they shrink in comparison with the great and awesome tasks that await us both as free and peace loving nations.

So let us fix our attention not on those matters that vex us as neighbours, but on those issues that face us as leaders. Let us look southward as part of the hemisphere with whose fate we are inextricably bound. Let us look eastward as part of the north Atlantic partnership upon whose strength and will so many depend. Let us look westward to Japan, to the newly emerging lands