

I am aware of the myriad occasions in the context of the United Nations and its specialized agencies when Canada and Austria find themselves making common cause in the search for a more secure, stable and just world order. This is applicable as much to the UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) meetings in Nairobi as to disarmament, non-proliferation, arms control and outer space conferences at which our two delegations have worked so closely together. I refer also to our collaboration in the CSCE (Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe) negotiations in Helsinki and Geneva, which led to the Helsinki declaration, a document regarded by many as laying down the basis for a political détente between East and West. We are indebted to Austria for hosting the negotiations directed towards mutual and balanced force reductions between East and West. While Austria's contributions to these wide and varied activities may be understandable in terms of securing Austria's status of permanent neutrality, they have benefits for the international community as a whole, going beyond even this important Austrian national objective.

Our two nations have both renounced a nuclear weapons option by becoming parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. It is, I think, indicative that neither Canada's membership in a major collective security alliance nor Austria's status of permanent neutrality has prevented us from participating together in United Nations peacekeeping missions. Both of us benefit only in the sense that every member of the international community shares the interest of all in preventing breaches of the peace. No better example can be found of our common desire to contribute to a peaceful world. I cannot fail to mention, in this context, Dr. Kurt Waldheim, the distinguished Secretary-General of the United Nations. It is fitting for me to pay tribute to him in the capital which remembers him for the many contributions he had made in the conduct of Austria's foreign policy, not the least of which was his role as Ambassador to Canada.

It is the most natural thing in the world that two such countries as ours should have found a great potential for ongoing co-operation and collaboration in such crucial multilateral undertakings of our time as the North-South Dialogue in all its forms, in the law-making, peacekeeping, arms control and disarmament activities in the United Nations family of organizations and in a wide range of other significant organizations and conferences. Even with respect to international activities not directly related to governmental positions or foreign policy issues, it is interesting to note that Innsbruck has just hosted the 1976 Winter Olympics, while Montreal will soon be hosting the 1976 Summer Olympics. I have no doubt that in the purely bilateral field, as well as in the multilateral field, there exists a potential for a fuller and even more intensive co-operation than that already realized, and I look forward to the achievement of those objectives.