

that the existing organization of the Commonwealth as a group of independent nations co-operating in matters of common concern seems best adapted to the realities of the situation.

To sum up, therefore, we differ from the United States externally in our allegiance to the British Crown, in our membership in the Commonwealth and in our attitude toward Europe. In other words, our attachments and interests have resulted until recently at any rate in less isolationism in the north half of the North American continent than in the south.

I come now to Canada's relations with the United States of America, and our internal political differences. The history of relations between our two countries has been so unspectacular and the development of our co-operation so complete over a wide area of mutual interests that the almost automatic continuation of our present cordial friendship is often taken for granted. The examination, from time to time, of the outstanding problems confronting us is a necessary step in the continuing process of nurturing the friendship and understanding that have been built up over many years.

For Canadians, our relations with the United States have always been and will continue to be an essential part of the foundation of our foreign policy. During the 100 years before the Second World War, most of our problems were of a kind that arise from time to time between any two neighbouring countries -- disputes about the location of the boundary, the use of boundary waters, the exploitation of fisheries, smuggling and tariffs. We have built up a tradition of settlement of such problems through judicial or semi-judicial processes which is almost unique in the affairs of nations and which has become almost routine with us.

There is ample cause for satisfaction in the long period of friendship which our countries have enjoyed. We both have a mercantile spirit increasingly aware of mutual economic dependence, and a belief that there are no national problems as important as the maintaining of friendship. This has predisposed our nations to resort to investigation and adjudication of problems rather than to solutions imposed by force or fear.

The long history of the settlement of our problems by judicial or semi-judicial processes began with the establishing, by joint commissions set up under the Jay Treaty in 1794, of thousands of miles of boundary through imperfectly mapped territory involving the determination of sovereignty over disputed areas. It has continued, and is continuing now, in the control of fisheries and in the use of boundary waters through similar joint commissions established by treaty. The story has not been without outward expressions of indignation on both sides of the border over what were conceived to be sacrifices of "vital interests" and "national honour". However, the successful settlement of our differences during this period when we were both primarily (the United States almost exclusively) concerned with "cultivating our own gardens", has only once been marked by actual conflict -- the war of 1812, a war in which the United States had no very earnest interest; and only the most colourful and "coloured" incidents of this