

Your Excellency, Madam Vorotnikova, Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is with a particular pleasure that I welcome you to Canada today. I am delighted to have an opportunity to return the gracious hospitality offered me during my memorable visit to the Soviet Union. I am glad to be able to honour a distinguished political leader from one of Canada's two principal neighbours. I am also conscious of the great importance of your visit. Your coming, Sir, is the latest step in efforts to develop our bilateral relations. Your stay will also, I hope, contribute to a better understanding of each other's positions, aims and motives, at this juncture in East/West relations.

This year marks the 40th Anniversary of the victory of our war-time Alliance. We would do well to consider the lessons of this anniversary year: that the forces of unreason can dominate even the most reasonable of men; that democratic values are the fundamental defence against the spread of tyranny.

It is also the anniversary of our decision to work out differences without resort to force of arms through the new institution of peace -- the United Nations. Our record since then has not been bad, despite the decades of tensions, sometimes dangerous, and certainly costly, between East and West.

We cannot be complacent about this. We have succeeded during this period in controlling these tensions sufficiently to prevent an outbreak of hostilities, but we have not yet achieved a durable peace.

Today, on both sides, we are renewing our efforts to diminish the strains that have characterized East/West relations since the end of the seventies. It is, for this reason, important that we should understand each other better, if our efforts to establish sounder East/West relations are not to falter -- as did the efforts at détente in the preceding decade.

The differences between East and West are certainly great. They do not, however, exclude the development of a more cooperative and less confrontational relationship, a relationship marked by:

- a greater awareness of each other's intentions;
- a greater recognition of each other's interests;  
and
- a higher degree of mutual respect.