

THIS IS A VERY SPECIAL OCCASION FOR US IN CANADA. IT IS LESS A STATE OCCASION THAN A REUNION OF FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS. SINCE I BECAME SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS TWO YEARS AGO, I HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE UNIQUE CHARACTER OF RELATIONS BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES. WE ARE TWO YOUNG NATIONS WHICH GREW UP IN A NEW WORLD, WHOSE POPULATIONS ARE MADE UP OF PEOPLE FROM A MULTITUDE OF NATIONS AND CIVILIZATIONS FROM DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD. WE SPEAK A COMMON IDIOM IN NORTH AMERICA -- EVEN THOUGH IN CANADA WE DO IT IN TWO LANGUAGES -- AND UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER PERHAPS BETTER THAN ANY OTHER TWO COMPARABLE NATIONS IN THE WORLD. THIS UNDERSTANDING AND WILLINGNESS TO SEE THE OTHER'S POINT OF VIEW HAS ENABLED US TO ACHIEVE SOME EXEMPLARY FORMS OF COOPERATION.