

There is a tendency in my country to equate an independent foreign policy for Canada with a policy at variance with that of the United States - - by some, indeed, as a policy opposed to that of the United States. Similarly, I have observed in the United States a tendency to feel disappointed when Canadian foreign policy on a specific issue differs from yours, as though your best friend had let you down. May I suggest that these are superficial views?

As Canadians, we run the risk of confusing difference from the United States with independence. In the United States, you may run the risk of looking upon our genuine independence as lack of sympathy with or understanding of the responsibilities of a super-power.

Canada has no pretensions to world power or influence. We strive to live within our resources and to use those limited resources to advance the interests we hold in high esteem, the most important being world peace and development. At the moment, we are reassessing our role and redefining our objectives.

So is the United States, if I read the signs right. The review of your foreign policy may not be quite so explicitly undertaken as is ours, but the reasons are much the same. The world is changing; the United States and Canada are changing with it. These changes have to be assessed in order to determine how our countries can best pursue their natural interests in the years to come. I shall not be surprised if our respective foreign policies tend in the future, as in the past, to complement one another, notably in pursuit of world peace and development.

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