

Committees of private citizens drawn from both countries are also playing a useful role. Equally important are the increasingly close personal relations which now exist between cabinet ministers, between officials, and between private citizens. I personally find it very useful to have periodic private conversations with the Secretary of the U.S. Treasury, Mr. Fowler -- on the telephone, over the dinner table, or even at an office desk!

Important as these bilateral relations are, they must be seen in context. The whole world has shrunk and become more interdependent. Each of our two countries must and does fit its bilateral relation to the other into a pattern of global needs and responsibilities. It would be presumptuous of me and unnecessary to this audience to discuss the world-wide interest of the United States. As for Canada, we find in our wider relations in the Commonwealth and beyond the counterweight and the perspective we need to exist next to the most powerful country in the world.

Maintaining perspective in a close bilateral relation between vastly unequal partners is not easy. There are times when Canada's response to a particular situation must seem unnecessarily sharp. I hope you will appreciate that some of the actions taken by Canada, and even some of the speeches made by Canadians, are no more than is necessary to protect our sovereignty and independence against powerful, even if beneficent, forces from below the Forty-Ninth Parallel.

Do not be misled by occasional bursts of what may appear to you to be shrill nationalism. Throughout our history as a nation we have known instinctively that our destiny lay in the world, not in frigid isolation within our own borders or even in the more luxurious North American isolation we might share with you in a strictly bilateral arrangement. Interdependence is not new or foreign to us. We recognize and accept it in our bilateral relations with you. We are prepared upon occasion deliberately to extend it, as in the Automobile Agreement. We seek to establish and work through new institutional arrangements which reflect its growing significance. But interdependence confined exclusively to our bilateral relation with the United States could develop as far as Canada is concerned into dependence and ultimately to complete loss of independence.

Thus Canada responds instinctively, positively to multilateral relations and the institutions set up to organize them. To Canadians these wider relations correspond both to our present requirements and to our aspirations for the future. In these wider relations we can accept the interdependence which the modern world demands without losing the economic, social and political independence of our country which we are bold enough to believe the modern world needs.