

But the close ties between our universities are not limited to student exchange. In addition, the tradition of visiting professors is one which we have honoured, and which has helped to inspire new perspectives and to produce flourishing new hybrids in the realm of ideas by cross-fertilization of the best strains of thought. Surely the same is true with regard to the fact that the pages of scholarly journals are not closed to anyone other than the nationals of the country of its publication. If other examples be needed to complete the pattern of our academic inter-relationships, I would mention very briefly the increasing use to which the unique historical materials in the Public Archives of Canada in Ottawa are being put by students from the United States, and the increasing awareness on their part that this continent's significant events over the past three centuries are not confined to a revolution and a civil war. No visiting scholars could be more welcome. At the same time I find it both heartening and interesting that centres of Canadian studies are being established at American universities and that the only Centre for Commonwealth Studies as a separate undertaking exists at Duke University in the United States of America.

There is, I need hardly remind you, a vast flow of people crossing our border in one direction or the other each year, but from this flow I have singled out one relatively small stream because its qualitative importance in the long run is far out of proportion to its quantitative size. To me, one Canadian student who has lived in your country for a year and come to know something at firsthand of the United States, of its people and of their thinking on contemporary problems is far more significant, in terms of exercising a reasoned and responsible influence in his community, than are the countless tourists who know little more of the United States than that Florida is warm and pleasant in the winter. The reverse situation is equally effective in dispelling the idea so prevalent in the United States that Canada is a broad and beautiful holiday hinterland which differs in few if any significant ways from its neighbour. It is a sad reflection on the age of mass misinformation in which we seem sometimes helplessly to be immersed, that such are the criteria by which popular assessments are often made. However deplorable such standards may be, they are nonetheless all too frequently applied, and to them the only effective counterpoise is to be found in a free, uninhibited and vigorous intellectual exchange across our borders. I can think of no more effective medium through which this two-way traffic, the life-blood of our stable and friendly relationship, can be conducted than the university community.

Whatever is true for Canada and the United States should, I assert, be applicable in principle to the rest of the world. The Canada - United States relationship is not as unique in character as it is sometimes made out to be. It is true, of course, that there are some unique aspects to it but it is primarily a sound and sensible relationship because we have