

it clear that we intended to do that. But we should and we intend to press those same views one-to-one with our closest friend and ally.

We want to approach the United States from a new perspective, not with a pre-set and rigid collection of specific policies. Our idea is simple and direct: let us, in addressing our economic problems and in meeting our wider ambitions, get the most out of our North American context.

The Prime Minister has taken the lead in showing Americans that Canada wants to pursue constructive cooperation rather than confrontation. The President has already responded with an undertaking to meet annually.

In my meeting with Secretary Shultz, I sought to maintain that momentum. And I intend to build upon these and other early meetings to create a multi-layered bilateral dialogue characterized by trust and by confidence.

Of course, if we are to make the most of the opportunities we see in a closer relationship, we need a clear sense of our own priorities, of what it is we want to get out of the relationship. We need a coherent approach and a coherent set of policies.

I am therefore pursuing my responsibility, as the Secretary of State for External Affairs, to bring coherence to the many facets of the relationship where my Cabinet colleagues are active. I discussed this need to coordinate with Secretary Shultz. The key is to keep the issues in perspective, in their rightful place, and to ensure that leaders in both countries know clearly just where the other stands. If we can do that, we will be going a long way toward reducing the risks of misunderstanding and of misallocation of our energy. On a secure foundation, we can build.

I have spoken about why the Government is so actively taking up the challenge of refurbishing our relationship with the United States. In the last analysis, however, the success of these efforts depends not upon what the Government may start but the degree to which Canadians in all walks of our national life are prepared to cooperate and join in that effort.

My colleagues and I need your support and your ideas. We are counting on business, community leaders and labour leaders and Canadians in general to back up our efforts. We for our part pledge to stay in close touch with you.