

"...It is in the interest of each of us to avoid official public disagreements with the other until early and intimate consultation in private has at least afforded an opportunity to resolve differences between us. If Canada, however, is to remain a voice respected in the world for its responsibility and independence, it naturally must retain the right to debate and discuss alternative courses of action publicly, and to differ by official pronouncement if private exchanges of view still leave us apart. In any event, each of us has the right to expect the other to accord to its views serious and understanding attention".

For Canadians to offer ill-informed criticism of United States foreign policy, without recognizing the enormous responsibilities which go with American power, and without recognizing the degree to which our interests coincide with those of the United States, would be a sign of immaturity and could have unfortunate consequences. It would, however, be equally immature of Canadians to accept unconditionally and without question the protection of our larger neighbour, on the assumption that what is good for the United States must necessarily also be good for Canada.

Canada is this year celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of Confederation. It is a time when all Canadians will be thinking about the origins of our nation, the achievements of our people, and the role our country can and must play in the councils of the world.

This great milestone in the evolution of Canada is not without significance for the United States. Concerned as they are with the burdens and responsibilities they have assumed around the world, Americans will, I hope, see in our centennial an occasion to recognize anew the value of Canada's distinctive, independent, yet friendly role in the international community.

The world of 1967 is a very different place from the world 100 years ago in which Canadian Confederation first took shape. The problems of foreign policy not only become more numerous but they take on many new dimensions, as the peoples of the world become increasingly interdependent.

In the task of building a world in which all peoples can find a full and rich life, there is no single path, no simple solution. The very effort of working towards a better world must attract the talents and energies of us all, for only those truly committed to the effort can ever find full satisfaction in the results.

In this spirit, let us, Americans and Canadians, join our efforts where we can. Let us not insist that there is no way but our own. Let us realize that our diversity, so long as it is tempered by respect and understanding, is a source not of weakness but of strength.