

Canada has taken a number of policy initiatives which are not directed against, but which affect most, our closest friends in the United States.

There is a balance to be struck here, between co-operation in mutual endeavour and the building of one's own national strengths from within. A new balance is not always easy to achieve, but responsible Canadians agree that its achievement is a realistic and worthy goal.

Of course, depending on one's perspective of change, I suspect that Canada's efforts to seek a new balance can be misconstrued. Perhaps this accounts for the conclusion of some observers that Canada/U.S.A. relations are somehow moving out of phase in certain areas, or that Canadian actions are chipping away at the traditional harmony between the two countries.

I don't think these assessments objectively describe Canada/U.S.A. relations. Rather, it seems to me they reflect different perceptions of how Canada/United States relations should evolve. As a result of these differences in perception, Americans and Canadians are holding our respective actions up to a different light.

However, as a people who this year are celebrating the bicentennial of your revolutionary experience, and who are reaffirming the ideals with which you have shaped your own nation, I am confident that Americans, above all our friends, can respect and appreciate why Canadians are concerned to give due attention to our own evolving national priorities.

It does not seem warranted to take the position that our bilateral relations are somehow less successful because of Canada's efforts to achieve national goals which Americans take for granted. Moreover, and