

It would be easy for Canada to become a mere rubber stamp for American foreign policy, especially since, as I have noted, our objectives and interests so frequently coincide. Easy, no doubt, but most unwise from the standpoints of both our countries.

Canada is a great and sovereign country in its own right. We must be free to make our own decisions and policies and to differ with the United States when we feel this to be necessary. Also, Canadian interests are not always squarely on all fours with those of the United States. There are and will continue to be times when what we are seeking, and need to achieve, will diverge from American objectives and when we pursue different courses, we must do so openly and with a full understanding of each others' points of view.

Canada is deeply conscious of the world leadership burden the United States is called upon to carry. We know that in this position the inter-relationship between important issues is incredibly intricate. Citizens of both our countries are not sufficiently aware sometimes that international issues are not a series of individual water-tight compartments. Proposed solutions for one problem may be perfectly logical in that case but their application would serve only to exacerbate another equally serious difficulty. When a smaller country or region, or even groups of people within our own countries, have a special interest in only one element of the interlocking global puzzle, it is not always easy for them to comprehend the failure to advance on the particular and narrow front of their concern. They fail to see sometimes the mutual exclusivity of individual initiatives each of which may be eminently sensible in its own right.