

At the same time, I urge you, as a Canadian who, like you, wants this country to remain strong, independent and prosperous, to extend your trading and financial horizons as the Government has extended its political horizons. This is the world of the Seventies, not of the Sixties or the Fifties. Some people think that by reason of the formation of trading blocs the world is closing in on us and limiting our opportunities. I do not share that view. The world is, in fact, becoming more interdependent and Canada, in its unique position as an industrialized country with vast resources, a sort of cross between a developed and a developing country, stands to benefit especially from this growing interdependence.

I have spoken to you today very frankly about the new world I see in terms of power relations and in terms of trade. I have outlined for you Canada's perception of this new world and some of the opportunities, challenges and constraints it offers us.

It is not an unfriendly world for Canadians, and Canada is fortunate to live next door to a democratic and friendly nation. I see no evidence whatsoever that the United States has designs on Canada's independence, economically or otherwise. On the contrary, I am more concerned that the United States might turn inward, which could indeed have serious consequences for us and for the world as a whole; so we should do everything we can to encourage that great country to reassume its position of leadership in the further liberalization of trade.

What I do see for Canada is an opportunity to continue to exploit our proximity to the greatest power on earth as a means of strengthening our own Canadianism. We are a far stronger and more independent nation today than we were at the end of the Second World War because we took advantage of our proximity to the United States to become a modern industrial state. Now, as the power centres of the world become more diversified, we can, without diminishing our friendship with the United States, extend our contacts east, west and north and thus reinforce our independence and, I might add, our national unity.

This is the kind of nationalism I advocate for Canada. Not an inward-looking, fearful nationalism, but a confident, outward-looking nationalism, that welcomes contact with other nations, that uses these contacts to enrich Canadian life, that makes Canada a livelier place in which to live and bring up a family.

S/C