

Foreword

Canada's 1967 Centennial celebrations gave an important stimulus to the forces of renewal in our country, and I am pleased to see that this year's Bicentennial celebrations in the United States are generating a similar spirit of rededication to the values that motivated its founding fathers.

A unique combination of intellectual innovation, technical ingenuity, economic dynamism and commitment to democracy has enabled the United States to make an immense contribution to the development of mankind during the past two centuries. I have no doubt that over the coming years the United States will continue to play a positive and dynamic role in international affairs and, more generally, in the progress of civilization.

The close relationship that exists between our two countries was not achieved easily or overnight. It is a product of the sustained effort of reasonable men to seek acceptable solutions to what often seemed initially to be intractable problems. Today we are able to pursue our respective interests with the understanding that comes from years of friendship and mutual accommodation.

This special issue of *International Perspectives* is but one element of the tribute Canada is making to the United States for its Bicentennial. It would have been insufficient to have produced a birthday card offering only good wishes. Rather, and in keeping with the magazine's policy of offering an opportunity for the presentation of varying views, the editors have sought to bring together the commentaries of a number of Canadians on the United States and the relationship between our two countries.

The first group of articles deals with the question so often uppermost in Canadian minds of how we can share a continent with our giant neighbour. The second group explores some aspects of our common heritage, and the third examines a few of the questions facing the United States today. It is my pleasure to introduce them with this foreword.

We in Canada welcome the opportunity to contribute to and share in our neighbour's two-hundredth birthday as did the United States in our Centennial nine years ago. It is my privilege to use this occasion to extend sincere birthday greetings from the Government and the people of Canada to the Government and the people of the United States of America.



Secretary of State for External Affairs