

ourselves whether, for a country determined to remain free and to manage its own domestic economy, we have taken full advantage of the potentialities of other growing markets.

In seeking greater diversification in our export trade we are not seeking to reduce by one cent the dollar value of our exports to the United States. Indeed, we hope it will continue to grow. What the Government is after -- I suggest in the national interest and the interest of the trading community -- is a faster rate of increase in our exports to the rest of the world, so that the percentage of the total going to the United States may at least be stabilized and better still somewhat reduced, over a period of years.

I will not stand here and draw at great length the moral of all this which must be obvious to you. Keep and develop your markets in the United States, nowhere on earth is there a market or an aggregation of markets for Canadian goods that can replace the United States.

At the same time may 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 relationships 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.