

leadership in the world. And before we can be strong in the world, we must be once again strong at home.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Reagan: Our friend, our ally, our partner, and our neighbour, Canada, and the United States have always worked together to build a world with peace and stability, a world of freedom and dignity for all people.

Now, with our other friends, we must embark with great spirit and commitment on the path toward unity and strength.

On this side of the Atlantic, we must stand together for the integrity of our hemisphere, for the inviolability of its nations, for its defence against imported terrorism, and for the rights of all our citizens to be freed from the provocations triggered from outside our sphere for malevolent purposes.

Across the oceans, we stand together against the unacceptable Soviet invasion into Afghanistan and against continued Soviet adventurism across the earth.

And toward the oppressed and dispirited people of all nations, we stand together as friends ready to extend a helping hand.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Reagan: I say to you, our Canadian friends—and to all nations who will stand with us for the cause of freedom—our mission is more than simply making do in an untidy world. Our mission is what it has always been—to lift the world's dreams beyond the short limits of our sights and to the far edges of our best hopes.

This will not be an era of losing liberty; it shall be one of gaining it.

This will not be an era of economic pessimism, of restraint and retrenchment; it will be one of restoration, growth, and expanding opportunities for all men and women.

And we will not be here merely to survive; we will be here, in William Faulkner's words, to prevail—to regain our destiny and our mutual honour.

Sometimes it seems that, because of our comfortable relationship, we dwell perhaps a bit too much on our differences. I, too, have referred to the fact that we do not agree on all issues. We share so many things with each other; yet, for good reasons, we insist on being different to retain our separate identities.

This captured the imagination of Ernest Hemingway when he worked as a writer for the *Toronto Star Weekly* in 1922. Hemingway was travelling in Switzerland and he noted that the Swiss made no distinction between Canadians and citizens of the United States. He wondered about this and asked an hotelkeeper if he didn't notice any difference between the people from the two countries.

"Monsieur", he said to Hemingway, "Canadians speak English and always stay two days longer at any place than Americans do." As you know, I shall be returning to Ottawa in July

and, if you don't mind, I'll plan to stay as long as everyone else.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Reagan: I am not here today to dwell on our differences. When President Eisenhower spoke from this spot in 1953, he noted his gratitude as Allied Commander in World War II for the Canadian contribution to the liberation of the Mediterranean. This touched my curiosity, and even though I had participated in that war myself, I did a little research.

In the Second World War there was something called the 1st Special Service Force, a unique international undertaking at the time. This force was composed of Canadians and Americans distributed equally throughout its ranks, carrying the flags of both nations. They served under a joint command, were taught a hybrid close-order drill, and trained together as paratroopers, demolition experts, ski troops and, then, as an amphibious unit.

The 1st Special Service Force became famous for its high morale, its rugged abilities, and tough fighting in situations where such reputations were hard-earned. Alerted to their availability, General Eisenhower requested them for special reconnaissance and raiding operations during the winter advance up the Italian peninsula. They were involved in the Anzio beachhead campaign in Italy and were at the spearhead of the forces that captured Rome.

The 1st Special Service Force made no distinctions when it went into battle. Its men had the common cause of freedom at their side and the common denominator of courage in their hearts. They were neither Canadian nor American. They were, in General Eisenhower's term, liberators.

So let's speak no more of differences today. Certainly your Ambassador, Ken Taylor, didn't when he first sheltered, and then spirited, six Americans out of the centre of Tehran and brought them to their freedom.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Reagan: Their daring escape worked not because of our differences but because of our shared likenesses.

A final word to the people of Canada.

We are happy to be your neighbour; we want to remain your friend; we are determined to be your partner; and we are intent on working closely with you in a spirit of co-operation. We are much more than an acquaintance.

Merci. Thank you.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Jean Marchand (The Speaker of the Senate): Mr. President, Mr. Prime Minister, Madam Speaker of the House of Commons:

To receive you in our capital and our Parliament represents for us, President and Mrs. Reagan, not only a great joy and