

Canada and the United States grew out of the freedom to choose a way of life. For hundreds of years, men and women have chosen to come to our two countries. The many thousands of Poles who are migrating to Canada and the United States now are testimony to the hold our freedom still has on people's imaginations everywhere. Out of these recurring waves of humanity have grown two diverse societies with similar ideals and hopes — democracy, human rights, freedom. Our values have grown in a common ethical landscape.

Differences

We clearly have much in common. We are not, however, identical. The United States was born in revolution. You have emphasized the melting pot and have given a vast new culture to the world. You have become truly a super-power.

Canada is smaller [in population] and younger. We have been independent for only 114 years. We have evolved gradually and the last steps of nation-building are only now being taken. We have striven to preserve our diversity. Thirty per cent of Canadians speak French as their mother tongue and our new Constitution will safeguard this duality.

More than 200 years ago your path and ours diverged, although our goals remained much the same. The parting of the ways led to different political institutions and even a different attitude towards government.

Canadians, unlike their American counterparts, expect their governments to participate in national economic life, to help knit together and develop a huge, under-populated and geographically unforgiving land. So Canadians have no objection in principle to government intervention. They are comfortable with government-owned television and radio networks, national airlines, the Canadian National Railway family of companies, Petro-Canada and a host of other government undertakings.

But neither is government intervention a principle. It is a pragmatic Canadian response to a particular set of circumstances, and by no means reflects any philosophical discomfort with the role of private enterprise. The private sector has been and will remain the driving force behind Canada's economic development. We feel strongly, as do you, that a free society is not possible without a free economy.

The structure of our two economies is very different. Canada's economy is a tenth the size of yours, and is more heavily dependent on primary resource industries. Our manufacturing base is narrower. Although in many respects Canadian and U.S. economic interests are parallel, in some important specific ways they diverge. In the past 20 years, the public debate in Canada on the degree to which such a divergence was desirable or possible has centred on the question of foreign ownership.

Canada is coming of age. Just as you were when you were at our stage of development, Canadians are not satisfied with having so many economic command centres outside the country. A certain core of national economic independence is necessary even in this interdependent world.

While Canadians readily acknowledge the benefits which foreign investment has
