

about 21 percent of California's natural gas needs.

- Each year, more than seventy million persons cross our border and you have never needed a passport to come to Canada.

One of the reasons that so many Americans see Japan as a more important partner for the United States is because the Canada/USA relationship is so close you take it for granted.

We don't, because a neighbour ten times our population is hard to ignore.

But you do - and I come today - with respect, as we Canadians say - to say you stop taking Canada for granted, because our friendship is as important to you as it is to us, and it has reached a point where some critical decisions have to be taken.

Just so there is no danger of my being misunderstood, let me remind you that one of the principal criticisms, in Canada, of our government is that we are too friendly with the United States. Before his election as Prime Minister, Brian Mulroney said that his attitude, in a controversy, would be to give the United States the benefit of the doubt. That benign undertaking ignited a genuine hullabaloo - but it has been our practise as a government, and it will continue to be.

Assume, for the sake of argument, a different attitude on the part of Canada. Assume we refused to cooperate in northern warning systems against potential Soviet attack. Assume, as a matter of deliberate policy, we confiscated American investment in Canada, or instituted visas and long cross-examinations for every fisherman or tour bus that crossed our borders. Assume that, instead of supporting you in Libya and helping your Embassy hostages out of Tehran, we used our position as your neighbour to put the worst possible interpretation on your every domestic controversy and international initiative. Assume, for the sake of argument, that your neighbour, along 5000 miles of strategic border, was some country other than Canada - any country other than Canada.