

HERE IN QUEBEC YOU WILL SEE EVIDENCE EVERYWHERE OF THE DISTINCTIVENESS OF CANADA.

I HOPE YOU WILL TAKE AWAY, AS WELL, FIRST HAND IMPRESSIONS OF THE DIVERSITY, DYNAMISM AND CONFIDENCE OF THIS COUNTRY.

WE ARE AN INDEPENDENT NATION WHICH SEES NO CONTRADICTION IN GUARDING OUR SOVEREIGNTY JEALOUSLY WHILE TREATING OUR FRIENDS FAIRLY.

AT OUR MEETINGS, YOU WILL SEE REFLECTED THE LONG HISTORY OF FRIENDSHIP, COMMON VALUES AND MUTUAL INTEREST THAT HAS ALWAYS DRAWN OUR COUNTRIES TOGETHER.

BUT WE MEET, MR. PRESIDENT, NOT SO MUCH TO CELEBRATE THAT RELATIONSHIP AS TO RENEW IT.

AND RENEW IT WE MUST, FOR NEW PROBLEMS, NEW DANGERS AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES FACE OUR TWO COUNTRIES; AS ECONOMIC PARTNERS ON THIS CONTINENT AND AS TRADERS WITH THE WORLD;

AS ALLIES IN THE DEFENSE OF NORTH AMERICA AND OF THE WEST; AS CUSTODIANS OF OUR ENVIRONMENT; AS INHERITORS OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND OF THE RULE OF LAW.

OUR TWO COUNTRIES APPROACH SOME OF THESE PROBLEMS FROM VERY DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES.

BUT I BELIEVE OUR PEOPLE EXPECT US TO FIND WAYS OF SOLVING THESE PROBLEMS AND OF ENRICHING LIFE IN OUR DISTINCTIVE NORTH AMERICAN SOCIETIES.

THAT IS THE OPPORTUNITY AFFORDED BY YOUR VISIT: TO SHOW THE WORLD THAT THIS UNIQUE AND REMARKABLE PARTNERSHIP IS CAPABLE OF SUPPORTING THE MOST FORMIDABLE TASKS OF OUR ERA --- SUSTAINED ECONOMIC GROWTH, THOUGHTFUL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, AND GENUINE MUTUAL SECURITY.