

CANADA HAS BEEN DAMPENED BY THE GROWING COMMERCIAL LINKS BETWEEN THE TWO ECONOMIES.

IF BY INDEPENDENCE WE ARE TALKING ABOUT THE RIGHT OF CANADIANS TO MAINTAIN THE UNIQUE SET OF SOCIAL SUPPORT MEASURES SUCH AS MEDICARE, UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE, AND THE CANADA PENSION PLAN, NOTHING IN THE AGREEMENT PREVENTS THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENTS FROM MAINTAINING THESE PROGRAMS.

IF WE ARE TALKING ABOUT POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE, NOTHING IN THE AGREEMENT AFFECTS OUR CAPACITY TO MAINTAIN OUR OWN POLITICAL SYSTEM OR FOREIGN POLICY. ON THE CONTRARY, A GROWING AND VIBRANT ECONOMY WILL STRENGTHEN OUR CAPACITY TO MAKE INDEPENDENT DECISIONS THAT WILL BE HEARD AND TAKEN ACCOUNT OF IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA. NOTHING WOULD SO UNDERMINE OUR CAPACITY TO CONTROL OUR OWN POLITICAL DESTINY AS WOULD A PROTECTED, WEAK AND PROGRESSIVELY LESS PROSPEROUS ECONOMY.

WE SHOULD NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE PROXIMITY OF THE AMERICAN BORDER OR THE ATTRACTION THAT LIFE IN WARMER CLIMES HAS ALWAYS HELD FOR SOME CANADIANS. THERE HAVE BEEN PERIODS IN OUR HISTORY WHEN CANADA HAS