

Finally, while this is a mammoth undertaking, it is, after all, only a trade arrangement. It does not, in itself, constitute any necessary threat to the sovereign independence of either country, as experience with such arrangements around the world has clearly and unequivocally demonstrated.

It does not mean political annexation. It does not limit our freedom of action on social policies, cultural policies, defence policies, or even trade policies vis-à-vis the rest of the world. We will be as free once the agreement is in place as we are today to follow our own destiny, from our broadest national purposes to the specifics of farm supply management or regional industrial development.

Surely, the only constraint on our "sovereignty" is this: if the advantages of this agreement prove to be very substantial, so too would be the cost of abrogating the agreement for any future government seeking to move in directions inconsistent with the agreement.