

The United States, both because of its size and its own historical development, has always had a very great interest in Latin America. It has been involved in the inter-American system from the beginning. It has taken the lead in developing an imaginative approach to the social and economic problems which challenge so many countries of the Americas.

Because of our stronger traditional ties with Europe, Canada has not entered fully into the inter-American system, despite the fact that we are a Western Hemisphere country. Nevertheless, we have established our own links with Latin America, and we have endeavoured to preserve and extend these links as opportunities have arisen. We look forward to the further development of our relations in this direction in the future.

As an example of the influence of tradition on Canadian foreign policy in this Hemisphere, and in a modern context, I might mention our developing special relations with the countries of the Commonwealth Caribbean. In recent years, some of these countries have attained independence; others -- the smaller ones -- will next week become "associated states" with Britain. These changes have enabled Canada to give new meaning to its relations with the Commonwealth Caribbean as a whole, in what we hope will be a constantly evolving and mutually beneficial relation, unique but not exclusive.

I could go on to discuss our foreign policies in other parts of the world, for Canada, like the United States, has world-wide interests. We have, in Africa, special interests arising from our membership in the Commonwealth and our "Francophone" heritage. We share, in the Middle East, a desire to see Israel and its Arab neighbours live at peace, and we participate in the United Nations force, which is contributing to the achievement of this goal. We are contributing, in many parts of the developing world, to the enormous and demanding task of raising the standard of living.

From what I have said, it is evident that Canada's foreign policies are based on its own distinctive traditions, its own capabilities, and its own interests. The same is, of course, true of the United States. In many aspects of our policy, we find ourselves collaborating or co-operating with the United States. In other cases, we find that Canada and the United States are playing complementary roles.

When two countries, however close the relations between them, pursue their own policies in international affairs, there are bound to be occasions when differences of opinion, and, indeed, differences of interest, arise. In the past we have always found ways of ensuring that these differences did not affect the basic nature of our relations. I am confident that, so long as our relations are characterized by good neighbourliness, by mutual respect, and by genuine willingness to understand the other's point of view, we shall be able to resolve whatever differences may arise in the future.

A distinguished American diplomat, Mr. Livingston Merchant, has offered some practical comments on the value and scope of consultation between Canada and the United States, which I think are worth repeating: