

We have chosen freely, as a result of our independent calculation of our own interests, to seek friendship and co-operation in manifold fields of common interest with the United States. The peoples of our two countries take for granted the peace which they have shared for a century and a half and the multiplicity of personal contacts, institutional links and joint projects which are now commonplace.

The governments have entered into major projects of co-operation in continental defence and economic matters. On the other hand, the very closeness of our relations in the economic field creates some problems - for example, with respect to financial matters and the operations of subsidiaries of American companies in Canada. Sometimes there is surprise that, in these matters and in world affairs, Canada and the United States might adopt different viewpoints.

I do not know of any two countries, even among allies closely associated in many fields in the Western world, which always arrive at the same conclusions. I am impressed more by the fact that our two nations, which are different in many respects, in power, in world roles, in historical background, and in some of our internal political preoccupations, find so many avenues for successful co-operation and for manifestations of deeply-felt friendship.

Canadians respect the spirit in which the United States has assumed heavy obligations of leadership in the world and admire the generosity with which the American people have supported so many great causes. For our part, we have contributed in various ways appropriate to us to the search for peace and welfare in the world.

Since 1945, Canada has given its support to all major United Nations ventures and to none with greater willingness than those of peace keeping. As a medium power able to play both a military and political role in this field, Canada has supported every major peace-keeping undertaking of the United Nations. We have troops in the Middle East and in Cyprus and are now contributing, or have contributed, observers and assistance of various kinds to peace missions in other parts of the world.

Our membership since 1954 in the International Control Commissions in Indochina has been outside the United Nations in a formal sense but closely related to it in spirit. We have sought to exert any influence we could in the region as a whole, and particularly in Vietnam, towards peace. We have tried by other means and in close contact with those nations most directly concerned to explore the possibilities of achieving a negotiated settlement in Vietnam which would lead to permanent peace, to economic reconstruction and development, and to long-term stability in Southeast Asia, based on an accommodation of the interests of all the parties to the present conflict.

These are some of the main themes in Canadian foreign policy, Mr. Chairman, and in our history and national affairs. I hope that our guests will see them as a background to the activities planned for next year. We approach our centennial with thanksgiving for all that we have been able to achieve as a nation.