

singular honour, but also the visible assurance that our traditional ties of friendship hold strong despite international upheavals whose shock waves have not spared our own continent, forced as we are to march more and more in step with even the most far-flung regions of an increasingly interdependent world.

On behalf of the Senate of Canada, I would like to transmit our heartfelt gratitude that you have chosen, at this very earliest stage of your mandate, to reinforce the foundation of a unique relationship based not just on a common interest shared by our two peoples, but also on a common spirit and aspiration. While recognizing our differences and respective sovereignty and in full appreciation of our respective stature and resources, we know that we are natural allies and that only blindness, or at least a lack of vision, can threaten this bond.

[Translation]

By seeking common ground in our national viewpoints, we will not only be doing ourselves a mutual service, but also contributing to the betterment of life among our brothers in other nations. If our roles are sometimes different, they are nonetheless complementary and our goals must be the same. To paraphrase an old maxim: "We who imagine we can do without the world deceive ourselves greatly; but those who fancy that the world cannot do without them deceive themselves even more." Long live the United States of America, long live Canada, long live peace between men and between nations.

[English]

Thank you, Mr. President.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Madam Speaker: Mr. President, you have accorded Canada the distinction of being the recipient of your first official visit as President of the United States. We are touched by this honour which strengthens our awareness of the long-standing ties which link us to those we call our neighbours to the South.

Our peoples, diverse in their origins, share a history which has brought us together on a vast continent, one which both your people and ours have explored and developed. Our cultural influences derive from the same sources and unite us in a common civilization. We have, since our beginnings, built on the strength inherited from our pioneers, who were led by many different circumstances, political and economic, to the North American continent.

It goes without saying that an unfailing friendship exists between us. We applied ourselves to the task of building a prosperous country, inviting those elsewhere who sought

adventure or aspired to live in freedom to come and settle with us.

From such a sequence of events, varied and often dramatic, the United States and Canada were born. While many similarities unite us, the differences we manifest are the signs of the distinct personalities which finally gave our countries their identity.

[Translation]

When we look to the United States, we see a people that is industrious, dynamic, bold to the point of recklessness and that for a long time has been known for the scope of its discoveries and the uniqueness of its achievements. You explored space, walked on the moon and amazed the world by making dreams come true. This is proof of the spirit, enthusiasm, genius and perennial youth of America. Throughout the world, people look to you not only for inspiration but also for help and advice.

[English]

For our part, we have profited from your energy and dynamism. Our destiny, no matter how we view it, is closely tied to yours in our pursuit of individual freedom and the promotion of the social and economic betterment of our peoples. The contacts between us are many and varied. Both our countries wish to maintain their respective identities while working together, each in a different way, to build a universal civilization. Your culture, your arts, your literature, your science and your technology are marvellously impressive. Our lives have been enriched by them and they have inspired our own efforts. Your example is an encouragement to us, as Canadians, to marshal our physical and intellectual resources towards the creation of a society which reflects our essential Canadian character.

Mr. President, we have listened to you with great interest. We have paid close attention to your comments, mindful of the fact that you mean to lead your country along the paths which appear to you to be the best; and that you will do so with boldness, honesty and sincerity.

As has always been the case in the past, we shall be happy to find ourselves at your side in meeting the challenges which face us all. We shall co-operate with you, and with other countries, whenever the need arises, in promoting universal well-being and protecting the peace of the world.

Mr. President, Mrs. Reagan, in expressing our thanks and appreciation, we ask you also to accept our assurance of the respect and friendship which we feel for you and your country.

I now adjourn this meeting.