

to have the possibilities examined. Accordingly, they are arranging to establish a working group, at a senior level, to study the matter ..."

This group consists of Livingstone T. Merchant and A.D.P. Heeney, formerly Ambassadors of the United States and of Canada in our respective capitals. They have been examining the feasibility of the undertaking. On a practical basis and in the light of experience gained in actual cases, a framework of understanding may prove feasible, but no rules or principles can ever be a substitute for the will to co-operate that is required on the specific problems with which Canada and the United States are faced. Any measure which will help to prevent divergences and reduce the misunderstanding resulting from those divergences which do become necessary will make an exceedingly valuable contribution to the history of Canadian-U.S. relations.

Mingling Two Traditions

The successes in our relationship owe their origin to its flexible character. Americans are accustomed to a codified constitutional approach which has not only been highly successful in the United States but has also been a source of inspiration to the world community. Although we too have a written constitution Canadians are more accustomed to convention and precedent and to evolutionary processes, a combination which has proved to be particularly suitable throughout Canadian history in relation to our political system. There are advantages to both traditions. The strength of the North American partnership must be to incorporate the particular values of each.

The maintenance of good relations between Canada and the United States will depend in the long run less on administrative devices than on the ease with which our respective governments can discuss, and agree, and when necessary, agree to disagree.

Recognition of Unique Partnership

One evidence of the increasing maturity in our relationship is that we are both beginning to adopt broader perspectives. We are coming to recognize to an increasing extent that not only do we have a unique partnership on this continent but that, on the larger international scene, we are also partners, although partners in a different sense. The United States as a great power and Canada as a middle power together share the same basic goals regarding the orderly development of a secure and peaceful international community. Yet the burden does not fall equally upon us, for the United States bears the awful responsibility of world leadership. Its military might, its wisdom in negotiation, its generosity to the less fortunate, will in large measure determine the kind of world we can expect to see emerging in the remainder of this century. Canadians recognize the weight of the burden which the U.S. has borne with a high sense of responsibility and capacity, particularly in recent years. Within the limits of our resources and within the framework of alliances and organizations of which we are both members, Canada is sharing some of these burdens.