

Mr. Secretary, Distinguished Guests:

I should first of all like to thank you for this very warm reception and for making one feel so welcome. The fact that cordial welcomes are commonplace between our two countries does not detract from the warm and relaxed hospitality of each separate occasion. This evening's dinner proves that rule in satisfying measure.

The close dealings which characterize Canada/United States relations have become almost a byword. Perhaps this is in part because we have had much experience. There has always been a full agenda of common interests to be pursued and problems to be resolved. There always will be. I like to think that the numerous meetings which Dr. Kissinger and I have made a point of holding in various parts of the world have played a part in setting the tone for the day-to-day dialogue which takes place between our officials. I regard it as most important that we preserve the habit of ready and continuing willingness to communicate openly.

This means that representatives from two neighbouring nations - nations who know and trust each other well - are able to speak candidly and realistically as friends. And, while it does not follow that sentiment and goodwill alone colour our perceptions of each other, neither are these irrelevant or unworthy factors.

At the same time - in a world still struggling to rise above the confines, imperatives and abuses of national sovereignty - we remain two nation states of unequal power, each with its own defined interests and objectives, most of which correspond, but some of which conflict. It is also true that as a nation, trying firmly yet responsibly to chart the direction of our own national development,