

Of course, if we are to make the most of the opportunities we see in a closer relationship, we need a clear sense of our own priorities, of what it is we want to get out of the relationship. We need a coherent approach and a coherent set of policies.

I am therefore pursuing my responsibility, as the Secretary of State for External Affairs, to bring coherence to the many facets of the relationship where my Cabinet colleagues are active. I discussed this need to co-ordinate with Secretary Shultz. The key is to keep the issues in perspective, in their rightful place, and to ensure that leaders in both countries know clearly just where the other stands. If we can do that, we will be going a long way toward reducing the risks of misunderstanding and of misallocation of our energy. On a secure foundation, we can build.

I have spoken about why the government is so actively taking up the challenge of refurbishing our relationship with the United States. In the last analysis, however, the success of these efforts depends not upon what the government may start but the degree to which Canadians in all walks of our national life are prepared to co-operate and join in that effort.

My colleagues and I need your support and your ideas. We are counting on business, community leaders and labour leaders and Canadians in general to back up our efforts. We, for our part, pledge to stay in close touch with you.

In the Throne Speech will be announced the details of a comprehensive foreign policy review that will allow maximum possible public participation in the setting of all of our foreign policy goals. We don't intend to stop conducting or stop conceiving foreign policy during the process of the review but we do intend to open up a process that affects the expression of Canadian interests to all the people of the country.

Canadians have a lot to be proud of. We have things to say, accomplishments to boast of and experiences of our own that the world would like to hear. We have our own set of priorities, our own national purpose, our own vision of what the world should be, and our own values. Here lies the best answer to those who are concerned about our future as a distinctive nation on this continent. Our Canadianness depends not on the quality of our fences, but on our eagerness to get out and compete and participate on the world stage. I think it makes a great deal of sense to start next door.