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industrial revolution and landing in the technological age. The second point is equally simple. We shall not export except under the strongest of safeguards and subject to the inspection machinery of the International Atomic Energy Agency. We are constantly pressing for ever-wider acceptance of the highest standard of safeguards. We seek to tighten even further the constraints against explosions said to be for peaceful purposes. We are fearful that this great gift of the atom may be misused and lead to incalculable destruction and suffering. We believe, as Canadians, and as members of the human race, resident on this single, fragile planet, that we have some standing to voice these concerns. We were the first country in the world to possess the technology, and the industrial and economic bases, to produce nuclear weapons, and chose not to do so. We chose not to manufacture weapons 30 years ago when we first learned how. And we continue to refuse to do so. We believe that the stature of a country and of a people is measured not by their ability to destroy but by their willingness to assist the human condition.

The law of the sea is another major endeavour in which Canada and Mexico have been closely associated for many years. Both our countries have stressed, and will continue to do so, the need for a new legal order to manage the vast sea expanses for the benefit of mankind. We each have lengthy coastlines, we each share an acute perception of the physical and economic characteristics that must be taken into account in a new convention if the seas are to be preserved as a factor for peace and progress.

These issues -- guaranteeing that the atom will be employed only for peaceful purposes, ensuring that the seas and their resources will remain symbols of prosperity and harmony, restructuring the world's economy to ensure an equitable distribution of benefits -- are of immense complexity and of towering proportions. They offer to governments challenges as formidable as any that have been posed since the dawn of civilization. But, given a choice, should we prefer to live in any other period in history? I think not. If peoples are willing to dedicate their energies towards peaceful ends, if they are willing to accept the reality of interdependence, if they are willing to accept responsibility as stewards of this earth and of its environment, then we are truly entering the dawn of an era of unprecedented accomplishment.

I dare to believe that these things can happen -- that the demonstrated benefits that flow from co-operation between such countries as Mexico and Canada can provide incentive for peoples and governments in all parts of the world to concentrate their endeavours on activities for the benefit of human beings as distinct from those that are measured in terms solely of prestige. I dare to believe so

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