

now on an extremely good footing.

I should like to say another word if I may about the United States because of the importance I believe all of us in Canada must attach to it. In the House of Commons recently, I made the statement, which was not challenged by anyone, that Canada-U.S. relations today are in the best state that I have observed them for many, many years. The relations are extremely close and cordial. Your President made reference to my comment about being able to phone the Secretary of State, and that is precisely the situation. There is a good, easy working relation, as there is between the Prime Minister and the President, and has been throughout the whole of the U.S. Administration. I think that has been translated into quite a few worthwhile achievements in the last year or so. Whatever various people may feel about the wisdom or otherwise of the pipeline in terms of Canadian benefit and the like (and that is still to be argued), I, as you know, am very strongly in favour of it and believe it is very much in our interests. But whatever those discussions may be, the fact is that this tremendously intricate and enormous project, the largest single project of its kind, I think, in the history of the world, was achieved over a quite remarkably short period of time and with very little by way of friction between ourselves and the United States. Similarly, this audience would have an interest in the St Lawrence Seaway. The negotiations with regard to the escalation of tolls on an orderly and reasonable basis were brought about without our having to take the formal step of abrogating the treaty and starting a whole process of either judicial, semi-judicial or quasi-judicial negotiations. Also, in terms of the law of the sea and the 200-mile limit, we have been able to work it out and are moving now towards a more permanent arrangement. Of course, there is also constant contact between us on various economic matters.

With those three targets in terms of objectives for Canada – the strengthening and the maintenance of good relations –, I think I can report to you with a good deal of conviction that, from a national-interest point of view, good relations, I believe, are "in place".

But Canada can't live in a world in which all of our time and all of our preoccupation is with just a handful of countries, as important as they may be to us. There is another side to the Canadian character that I have detected, particularly since I have been in this position. Canada and Canadians want to see a kind of moral foundation for our foreign policy. And I think there are times when they want to see the Secretary of State for External Affairs declare himself, and declare the country, on certain international issues, not because there is anything in it for Canada (indeed, there may be no guarantee that there won't be negative results for Canada), but because they believe strongly in those particular views and they want it said. They get a sense of satisfaction when something is said. They are unhappy when Canada does not, again to use the vernacular, stand up to be counted on particular issues. We have a good opportunity – probably one that is out of proportion to our size in population terms in the world community – to influence various groupings of countries around the globe who can play a significant and decisive role in enhancing and improving, for example, such things as human rights and a whole range of other, what I describe for want of a better word as, moral issues.