

In this newly created nation were retained English thought, tradition and political experience. To it were added a New World experiment in self-government with the "rights of man" and "natural law" -- ideas borrowed from the political thought of France. France in turn reabsorbed these ideas a few years later to provide some of the ideological fire for its own revolution.

Since 1776 the story of freedom has been in a remarkable degree the story of the English-speaking peoples spreading through many lands. In the 19th century the key role was played by peace-keeping Great Britain, and in the 20th, by a towering and powerful United States. Paradoxically, out of the separation of 1776 has come added strength to the liberty of men everywhere in the world, and in ever-increasing measure Anglo-American friendship has become a major foundation for the preservation of free and democratic society in the Western world.

In that friendship Canada shares. Canada and the United States have taken different yet parallel courses towards the kind of political sovereignty which each has found suitable to its people. Independence and self-government were attained in different ways -- "in the United States by revolution, and in Canada by evolution". In going separate ways, each has been inspired by a common history, by a common heritage of institutions, by the eternal values of right, and equal justice under law, and by a common international purpose -- the maintenance of peace in Freedom.

Both our countries have been able to bring about a unity among different races by welding together on equal terms and in freedom, English and French, German and Dutch, and all the races of mankind. Canada, founded by two great races -- British and French -- has achieved something more -- a unity and partnership between them which retains the best traditions of both. The successful mingling of races in Canada and the United States furnishes a hope for all mankind -- a hope of achieving peace among men irrespective of differences in race or nationality or creed.

Each of our nations is as sovereign and independent as the other; -- while Canada is a monarchy, whose Queen is the Queen of Canada, it has to be reiterated that Canadians contribute to her nothing for taxation or otherwise. Indeed, had the British Government listened to the request of the Olive Branch Petition, signed by forty-six members of the Continental Congress, including John Hancock, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Patrick Henry, Richard Lee and Thomas Jefferson, the course of history would have been changed. This Petition, delivered to the British after the battles