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Canadian history and Canadian geography have taught us the importance of responsibility -- for our own acts and our own defaults. We are impatient with those who turn to explanations to excuse their every defect. Canadians want to participate actively in the creating of a new sense of community in this hemisphere and in the entire world. We are willing to work hard and to contribute much to a new economic order. At the same time, we ask that others, elsewhere, share some of our concerns as we share theirs.

One of our concerns is about the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Canada was the first country in the world that possessed the technology, the skills and the industrial base to produce a nuclear bomb -- and did not do so. We did not in 1945, when we were first able, we have not in the intervening years, and we shall not in the future. We shall not because we believe that the stature of a people is not measured by its destructive capacity but by its concern for the welfare of others.

There are not sufficient human or natural resources in this world to permit their continued dedication to destructive purposes if we are to gain any measure of relief in alleviating human misery of the most basic sorts. Illiteracy, poverty, famine, disease -- these are the common enemies of mankind. They cannot be overcome by military, and especially not nuclear, activity. If the dignity of individual human beings is our goal, as I believe it to be, nuclear weapons stand as a barrier -- not as a bridge -- towards its attainment.

We have talked of many things since my arrival, Mr. Prime Minister, and we shall talk of many more before I depart. In those discussions, we have found that we are not able to agree on every issue. We have found, instead, something more important -- that we can disagree honourably and without disrespect. The history of our relationship as countries throughout the past 15 years has been a demonstration of the ability of two peoples of broad differences to respect one another and to find areas of co-operation to their mutual benefit.

In 1976, our two nations will have in Canada two unique opportunities to co-operate and to compete. (And I hope that soon we shall have a third chance to meet, if you, Mr. Prime Minister, will do us the honour of visiting Canada.) In Vancouver in May, as I have already mentioned, we shall co-operate at "Habitat", the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements. In Montreal in July, we shall compete at the Olympic Games. Each event, the co-operative and the competitive, will serve to demonstrate the value of peaceful and friendly ties between the peoples and governments of Canada and Cuba. To that peace and that friendship, and to the continued

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