

ONE OF MY FIRST MAJOR CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS AT THAT TIME WAS WITH MR. FRANCIS PYM, THEN FOREIGN SECRETARY: AND WE TOOK STOCK. WE FOUND THAT WE WERE BOTH CONSCIOUS OF THE DANGERS OF DRIFT, AND BOTH CONCERNED TO ARREST AND REVERSE IT. INDEED THE REALITY OF A CERTAIN NEGLECT OF THE RELATIONSHIP WAS BROUGHT HOME TO US BY THE VERY FACT THAT MR. PYM'S VISIT TO CANADA WAS THE FIRST IN SIX YEARS BY A BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY.

WE DECIDED THEN, TO HAVE MORE SYSTEMATIC AND THOROUGH POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS AND WE HAVE DONE JUST THAT. PRIME MINISTER THATCHER VISITED CANADA LAST SEPTEMBER. PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU WENT TO LONDON IN NOVEMBER TO DISCUSS WITH MRS. THATCHER THE GROWING DANGERS IN EAST-WEST RELATIONS AND THE POSSIBILITIES OF REDUCING THEM. I MADE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO BRITAIN IN EARLY DECEMBER AND HAD TALKS WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY SIR GEOFFREY HOWE AND WITH BARONESS YOUNG, WHO PARTICIPATED IN THOSE TALKS. JUST OVER A WEEK AGO MR. GERALD REGAN HAD TALKS IN OTTAWA WITH HIS BRITISH COUNTERPART, MR. CHANNON, WHO WAS REPAYING MR. REGAN'S OWN WORKING VISIT TO LONDON OF ABOUT A YEAR AGO. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE SOUGHT ONE ANOTHER OUT AT MULTILATERAL MEETINGS IN, FOR EXAMPLE, THE U.N., THE COMMONWEALTH AND NATO CONTEXTS, TO MAINTAIN A CLOSE DIALOGUE ON MAJOR ISSUES.

OUR OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO BEEN MEETING FREQUENTLY AND REGULARLY. FOR EXAMPLE, MY DEPUTY MINISTER FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS HAS MET HIS BRITISH OPPOSITE NUMBER ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. IN THE CONTEXT OF ONE OF THE OLDEST CONSULTATIVE MECHANISMS WE HAVE, THE CANADA/UK CONTINUING COMMITTEE, MY DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN TRADE AND HER BRITISH COLLEAGUE MEET BIANNUALLY.

SO THERE HAS BEEN THE WILL AND THE MECHANISMS FOR CLOSE CONSULTATION, AND WE ARE SEIZING, MORE AND MORE, THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIALOGUE. AT THE SAME TIME, THE TWO GOVERNMENTS ARE READY TO GIVE IMPETUS, WHEN IMPETUS IS REQUIRED, TO THE MANY OTHER ACTIVITIES THAT BRING US TOGETHER. OUR AIM IS TO REALIZE FULLY THE POTENTIAL OF THE GREAT RANGE OF OUR RELATIONS IN BUSINESS, IN EDUCATION, IN SCIENCE AND IN THE CULTURAL WORLD.

I BELIEVE THAT WE CAN DRAW SOME SATISFACTION FROM WHAT DOES HAPPEN BETWEEN US.