

We shall also be undertaking more difficult discussions on a more intractable problem — that of settling on a mutually-satisfactory regime for our extended maritime boundaries and management of fisheries and mineral resources in our maritime economic zones.

We shall review progress and problems associated with building a natural-gas pipeline from Alaska across Canadian territory to the lower 48 states.

We shall extend these discussions to other forms of co-operation in the energy sector. Efficient management and delivery of energy resources constitute one of the major challenges of industrial societies, and it behoves us to explore possibilities for mutually-beneficial projects to respond to this challenge in our neighbourhood.

But, in a very real sense, our neighborhood is now the world. Canada is deeply conscious of the world-leadership burden the United States is called upon to carry. We know that, in this position, the interrelation between important issues is incredibly intricate. Citizens of both our countries are not sufficiently aware sometimes that international issues are not a series of individual watertight compartments. Proposed solutions for one problem may be perfectly logical in that case but their application would serve only to exacerbate another equally-serious difficulty. When smaller countries or regions, or even groups of people within our own countries, have a special interest in only one element of the interlocking global puzzle, it is not always easy for them to comprehend the failure to advance on the particular and narrow front of their concern. They fail to see, sometimes, the mutual exclusivity of individual initiatives each of which may be eminently sensible in its own right.

In terms of Canada-U.S. relations in the international field, this is an ever-present fact of life. Because Canada does not have the same global responsibilities and range of interests, there are times when we find it difficult to stay in concert with the United States.

An independent foreign policy for Canada is not only a necessity for a strong and vital country — it also provides that element of credibility that gives meaning and significance to Canadian support for United States initiatives in international affairs. If the world community took it as read that Canada would always agree with the United States, then Canada would be cast in the role of a mere cipher and we should be no good to anyone — least of all ourselves.

And we must be ourselves. Despite our deep and abiding friendship, we remain two distinct peoples, alike where it counts and different where it counts. For America, there has been the agony of civil war — the courageous act, one of the finest in all history, of facing up to and subduing racial intolerance and bigotry. There has been also America's remarkable resurgence after the tragedy of Vietnam and the recent constitutional crisis, the reaffirmation of the moral strength that helped to build the United States and upon which Americans have always been able to draw in difficult and trying times.

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