

Recriminatory rhetoric will get us nowhere — except into a more excited and more nationalistic home environment.

It is the reality of the Canada-U.S. relationship that two different countries can grow separately in their own ways, yet retain bonds of friendship and respect through a common heritage of basic values — the sort we have protected together in two world wars, in Korea, in Iran, in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD). Those values find their ultimate expression in the countless personal links which are the fabric of our relations. In the long run, those values and those personal links define the quality of our relationship.

Canada and the United States have followed distinct paths from the beginning. Our challenge has always been to contain and channel our disagreements so that they did not impede the steady flow of friendship. We must continue to accept this responsibility.

But we must do more. We must visualize our relationship, including our problems, in a world perspective, in a world of general turbulence in which like-minded countries are few enough that we cannot afford to be distracted from achieving together our common goals of freedom, justice, democracy, and friendship among all peoples.