

are not new to us, and we know something of what it's like to have a country--and it was a country, small, but nevertheless our country -- decide to join a larger country -- the reverse of what some people in Canada are talking about now. So, for my part, I was really, and can describe myself, as a Canadian not by birth or even by choice, but one by conversion, and that conversion has been total and absolute.

And I simply want to say this: that as someone who has gone through that unique experience, I haven't the slightest doubt that this country is worth working for, and that it is worth making a very special effort to hold together. And, of course, I hope also that you feel the same way.

So, when I'm in Brussels next week, or Latin America in January, Your Excellency, it will be good to know that there are serious-minded Canadians who are giving careful attention to international matters and who I know I can count on, not necessarily for total approval of Canadian foreign policy, but, more important, for guidance and advice, and perhaps most important of all, encouragement.

Thank you all very much indeed.