

that remains as a reliable guide for the conduct of governments and individuals is the test of individual human benefit. Countries that have different social systems -- in some instances very different and even opposite systems --, countries that make different and at times radically opposed judgments about how best to serve peace and development in the world, are learning to speak together and work together towards the solution of common problems. It is by concerting our efforts that we shall find fair and effective solutions with a special concern for the weakest.

In this period of change, we find that in many respects national boundaries are becoming increasingly irrelevant, that commerce and culture and knowledge are no longer subject to the dictates of national units in an international world. We have come to recognize in recent years that many age-old human aspirations, and many brand-new economic aspirations, are so broadly based and so deeply rooted that they defy either control or satisfaction on a national basis. We have learnt that men and women will borrow from any source in their desire to better their own condition. And this fact forces governments to look about and to co-operate one with the other.

The history of Canada has been one of change, and -- equally important -- one of tolerance for both change and diversity. Canadians have long been receptive to new ideas.... Increasingly, as the world grows ever smaller, as issues become ever more interconnected, and as countries find themselves ever more interdependent, Canadians are looking outward. One of the regions of the world attracting our attention is Latin America. For that reason, Mr. Premier, we were happy last year to welcome to Ottawa your distinguished Vice-Premier, Dr. Carlos Rafael Rodriguez. And I am very pleased to visit you here. In these ways we shall come to know one another better, and to identify benefits available to Cubans and Canadians alike from a relationship based on knowledge and co-operation.

You had the wisdom, Mr. Prime Minister, to recognize from the outset that the highest priority must be given to the development of your country's human resources. Your record in the fields of land reform, health care, education, housing, sanitation and food production is envied by many countries. Yet you and your people know full well that those accomplishments were not gained without sacrifice. The Cuban experience has attracted interest from near and far. Because of its undoubted dedication to bettering the lives of Cubans, this record, both in its achievements and its shortcomings -- which you, Prime Minister, have analyzed courageously in public -- will long be studied by students of social and developmental processes.

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