

"Our goal is to move toward a world where power blocs and balances are not dominant, where justice, not stability, can be our overriding preoccupation, where countries consider co-operation in the global interest to be in their national interest. For all that has been achieved, we must realize that we have taken only the first hesitant steps on a long and arduous road ...".

This goal, which induced the United States Government to recast its diplomacy in a multi-polar framework, is very similar to our own. Of course, we do not emphasize the same elements in the evolving power structure; nor do we necessarily draw the same policy conclusions from the same elements. For we are distinct societies, each with its own history, array of national interests and bevy of domestic constraints. But there is no doubt in my mind that the current evolution of United States foreign policy allows Canada to implement its own policy of diversification -- what we call the "Third Option". That is, an attempt to develop further and deepen our relationships with other countries of the world while moving on with our very close and valued links with your country, the first and the most important among all our partners.

Thus, we hope to play a role on the world scene which corresponds to Canada's aspirations, and resources. As you have stated many times yourself, leadership, in the international community, cannot be the burden of only one great power; I would add that leadership equally cannot be the exclusive prerogative of the great powers. Thus it should be considered quite normal for middle powers and even small countries to participate in the resolution of international problems, or in the de-fusing of localized conflicts. This form of leadership sometimes carries risks; it is nonetheless necessary to assure humanity's constant progression towards the new political and economic order to which all peoples aspire.

On occasion we in Canada have been able to play a leading role in world affairs. We have done so with your sympathy and understanding and we are confident this will be so in the future. That a middle power bordering the world's strongest power can act freely and independently is high tribute to the maturity of our bilateral relationship and our conception of international relations.

Our shared heritage of North American development, our joint achievement of the largest bilateral trading relationship in the world, and similarities in our basic values, have all contributed to our healthy and mutually beneficial relationship. That each government responds from different perspectives to different imperatives only serves to underscore the significance, and the soundness of maintaining good relations, and of our mutual accomplishment in the maintenance of continued good relations. Indeed the mutual respect, enormous goodwill and undeniable