

AT THE SAME TIME, CANADA WAS CHANGING. THE CANADA-U.S. BASE OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TRIANGLE WAS LENGTHENING IN ECONOMIC TERMS, UNTIL FOR CANADA IT WAS SCARCELY A TRIANGLE AT ALL, WITH MORE THAN SEVENTY PERCENT OF OUR EXPORTS NOW GOING TO THE UNITED STATES, AND THE LION'S SHARE OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN THIS COUNTRY COMING FROM SOUTH OF OUR BORDER. PROFOUND CULTURAL AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION ACCOMPANIED ECONOMIC CHANGE. IMMIGRANTS CAME FROM THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE EARTH. AND CANADA ESTABLISHED ITS OWN NORTH AMERICAN PERSONALITY, BASED ON ITS OWN VISION OF THE NEW WORLD.

TWO GENERATIONS OF CANADIANS AND BRITONS HAVE NOW GROWN UP READING OF OUR COMMON HISTORY, RATHER THAN LIVING IT IN THE INTENSE WAY THEIR PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS DID. NOT SURPRISINGLY THE CHARACTER OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES HAS CHANGED. IT IS NOW BASED LESS ON KINSHIP AND MORE ON PERCEPTIONS OF COMMON INTEREST. NEITHER OF US IS THE OTHER'S MAIN PREOCCUPATION. YET FOR ALL THAT OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS REMAIN IMPORTANT AND DYNAMIC.

IT IS TRUE THAT MUCH OF WHAT TAKES PLACE BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES NEEDS NO GOVERNMENT LEADING. BUSINESS TIES ARE BASED ON ADVANTAGEOUS MARKET POSSIBILITIES. CULTURAL LINKS ARE A FUNCTION OF THEIR OWN EXCELLENCE. AND THE PLENTIFUL PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE CONTACTS ARE TESTIMONY TO THE SPECIAL AFFINITY WE STILL HAVE FOR EACH OTHER. IT CERTAINLY WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR ME SPEAKING IN HALIFAX TO MENTION THAT NOVA SCOTIA IS NEW SCOTLAND AND THERE ARE, AFTER MANY YEARS OF INACTIVITY, MUCH MORE FREQUENT AND MORE VALUABLE INTERCHANGES BETWEEN SCOTLAND AND NOVA SCOTIA THAN THERE HAVE BEEN FOR A LONG TIME. THAT PERSON TO PERSON, PEOPLE TO PEOPLE, LINKAGE IS GROWING ALL THE TIME AND I BELIEVE TO THE MUTUAL BENEFIT OF BOTH.

I WANT TO MENTION THAT IN 1982 WHEN I RETURNED TO MY POSITION AS SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, I MEASURED A CHANGE IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP, WHICH UNDER MY PREVIOUS TENURE HAD ALREADY BEEN EVOLVING TO ADAPT TO BRITAIN'S ENTRY INTO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. AS I TURNED TO IT AGAIN, I FOUND A MIXED PICTURE: THERE WAS SOUND CAUSE FOR SOME SATISFACTION, BUT THERE WERE ALSO REAL GROUNDS FOR CONCERN. LINKS OF ALL KINDS -- HUMAN, COMMERCIAL, SCIENTIFIC, CULTURAL -- WERE STILL RICH AND DIVERSE; BUT AT THE SAME TIME A CERTAIN COMPLACENCY SEEMED TO HAVE SET IN IN OUR GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT DEALINGS. WE HAD, I THOUGHT, BEGUN TO TAKE EACH OTHER FOR GRANTED. THIS WAS IN NEITHER COUNTRY'S BEST INTEREST.