

There is something of a dichotomy in the situation where though our relationships are coming closer and closer together in economic terms and in political terms, nevertheless the gap of knowledge, of hard, real knowledge about each other has actually been widening over time. And there are many perfectly defensible reasons for that. But in the years of challenge that lie ahead for us, where our destinies, in a great many respects, are inextricably linked, it is going to be of increasing importance to us to ensure that the flow of communication and of contacts is increased and improved. We have the mechanisms in place. We, for instance, have something like fifteen or sixteen consulates throughout the United States. We have one of our most distinguished public servants and our best-known diplomatic leader in the person of His Excellency, Mr. Jake Warren, who I am happy to have with us today, in charge of our Embassy in Washington and doing a first-class job of conveying to that level as well as to the community at large facts about Canada. But we must do a great deal more.

One of the things we have learned, for example, looking at the United States from the Canadian perspective, is that we can have - as we frequently, and indeed one could say consistently, do - the best possible relations with the administration in Washington. The two federal governments can have a total understanding of what it is that each is seeking to do in relation to the other. But in the United States there are other publics. There is under your system, for example, the congressional element of your governmental structure, and there it is important to - from our point of view - enhance and increase our contacts with your elected representatives so that they too will understand. Because there can be a chasm between a relationship with the administration and with the congressional leadership. In addition of course, as this audience so vividly represents and reflects, there is a public in the United States made up of informed and concerned citizens of various independent bodies, of private groups, so that the challenge to us in Canada is to, in the vernacular, cover all of the bases and I would hope also that there will be the same kind of interest in the United States so that this new thrust which we are undertaking in Canada will be reciprocated.

I may say to you that I'm saying today for the first time, and before this audience, and I'm delighted that I have this audience before whom to make the announcement, that so importantly do I regard Canada/United States relations that I have instructed our own Department of External Affairs to establish a Bureau to deal exclusively with Canada/U.S. relations. Up to now we have had a hemisphere Bureau with a United States Division in it, but with the Bureau dealing also with the Caribbean