

First, we are not going to strengthen our economy by anti-American policies. It is our destiny and our good fortune to share the North American continent with the richest nation on the earth's surface. It makes good sense to exploit that advantage for all it is worth. It makes good sense to work with the United States for our mutual benefit.

The second point is that in our economic policies we should strive to avoid unnecessary dependence upon the United States by promoting trade and financial links with the rest of the world. This is not anti-American in any sense. It is traditional Canadian policy, which is becoming more and more relevant as Europe and Japan, for example, challenge the predominant position of the United States as an economic power and the Soviet Union looks outward for trade with the non-Communist world.

The effort to diversify lies behind the Prime Minister's visits to the nations of Asia and the Pacific - and our trans-Pacific trade is multiplying apace - behind the constant consultations my colleagues and I are having with European governments and the European Economic Commission, behind the exchange of visits between our Prime Minister and Mr. Kosygin. None of these activities is anti-American in intention or effect. They are in pursuit of Canada's best interests. The economies of Canada and the United States are interdependent to an extent unequalled and unprecedented. It would be to the interest of neither nation were Canada to become an economic satellite of the United States.

I have dealt with Canada's economic interests first, since they represent solid realities that touch us all, that we can identify and measure in dollars and percentages. But Canada would be a poor country and I certainly would not be the Canadian Foreign Minister if we saw ourselves as no more than a business enterprise.

Canadians and Americans of all kinds of origins have shared this continent with its native inhabitants since before there was a Canada, since before there was a United States. Christoforo Colombo opened a new world for the Spanish in the South, the French in the North, the English on the Atlantic seaboard. In this impressionistic and highly unreliable sketch of the settlement of North America, I must not overlook the prudent purchase of a rocky island at the mouth of the Hudson River by the Dutch. The Italians, showing their usual good sense, avoided the wars of conquest and the power plays on this continent, and calmly infiltrated the lot, to the ultimate benefit of all.

North of the Rio Grande, this continent is shared by the people of Canada and the people of the United States. Canadians and Americans are proud peoples. They cherish their