

relationship, and one that is peculiarly important in the period that I have described, because if we have to found a new international system that is built on justice and equality in which all nations participate because they feel it is partly their own, then the relationship of a rather powerful country with perhaps what is too modestly called a middle power in such close proximity becomes of crucial importance. We can deal with each other without complexes; we can found our relationship on the consciousness of interdependence; we can live with disagreements, recognizing the different origins, the different background, and the different domestic necessities. We also know that disagreement is not pursued as an end in itself and that when we do agree -- which we do, after all, on the vast majority of fundamental issues -- that disagreement is all the more meaningful for having been freely achieved.

"In this sense, in striking the balance between national consciousness and international responsibility, between self confidence and the necessities of interdependence, our two countries can set an example to many other parts of the world.

"In no place in the world today is it possible for any one nation, no matter how powerful, to achieve its security or its prosperity by its own efforts. A few years ago, the United States proposed the economic coordination of the policies of the major industrial countries. That was considered then a daring idea; it is today commonplace. When in a few weeks the economic summit meets, that will be one of its principal objectives. As I stated on my arrival this afternoon, the United States considers it essential that Canada participate in such an effort, because it is only through the free cooperation of friendly nations that the interdependence of the world can be vindicated.

"This is why I was very glad to be invited to come here -- to continue conversations that have been going on informally, and easily, over the months and years of our joint service, and conversations that will continue over the years to come.

"I told the Minister (Hon. Mr. MacEachen) when I arrived that I don't really know how to handle the situation in which we would both have to try very hard to make the talks fail. (laughter) It is in this spirit that I look forward to our talks tomorrow.

"I should like to propose a toast to the friendship between the Canadian and the American peoples and to our host, the Minister."