

one state or group of states; in short, a Canada with a singular identity and well recognized as such both by Canadians and by citizens of other countries.

We have been active in the world in those areas where we could contribute positively and usefully: economic and technical assistance, through the creation of the Canadian International Development Research Centre; fresh juristic concepts for the prevention of pollution in waters off our shores and for the conservation of fisheries; studies and proposals in the fields of disarmament and arms control. We have looked to Latin America and are seeking permanent observer status in the Organization of American States; we have expressed our many-faceted interest in the countries of the far "rim" of the Pacific; we have adjusted our defence posture to remove from it any elements that could be regarded as provocative, and to ensure that our policy adequately but truly reflects the needs of Canada for national defence; we have been successful in establishing useful and official contacts with the most populous nation in the world, the People's Republic of China; we have entered wholeheartedly the new Francophonie organization.

All this has been done while retaining Canadian membership in NATO and NORAD, while strengthening our relations with such economic associations as the OECD and GATT, while contributing in an effective and constructive fashion to the UN and to the Commonwealth.

These activities are good in themselves, are good for Canada and, I am convinced, are supported strongly by the majority of Canadians.

It is in this context that my visit to the Soviet Union should be viewed. As we have looked traditionally south to the United States and east to Europe and, more recently, west to Asia, so should we not disregard our neighbour to the north. The relations between Canada and the Soviet Union in the postwar years have not all been of a wholesome or a desirable nature. I harbour no naive belief that as a result of this protocol our two countries will find themselves suddenly in a relation that will reflect nothing but sweetness and tender feelings. As I stated in my speech in the Kremlin, there remain many fundamental differences between us; differences relating to deep-seated concerns springing from historic, geographic, ideological, economic, social and military factors.

But, surely, the only way to resolve these differences and eliminate these concerns is by increased contact and effort at understanding. That is what the protocol proposes. That is what, in a different way, is achieved by prime ministerial visits. Through them an opportunity is created by the pens of journalists and the cameras of photographers for the people of both Canada and the Soviet Union to learn much more about one another -- their respective histories, their sufferings, their aspirations.

No one can travel in the Ukraine and not absorb the instinctive and passionate desire for peace on the part of a people who lost nine million of their countrymen during the Second World War, a number approaching in magnitude the entire population of Canada at that time. No one can walk through the cemeteries of Leningrad and view the mass graves of tens of thousands of residents of that city who died of starvation during the cruel 900-day siege and not understand that the Russian people fear desperately the repetition of an experience which no Canadians, fortunately, have ever suffered. The death of half the people of a city - 600,000