

Canadian actions are chipping away at the traditional harmony between the two countries.

I don't think these assessments objectively describe Canada-U.S. relations. Rather, it seems to me they reflect different perceptions of how Canada/United States relations should evolve. As a result of these differences in perception, Americans and Canadians are holding their respective actions up to a different light.

However, as a people who this year are celebrating the Bicentennial of your revolutionary experience, and who are reaffirming the ideals with which you have shaped your own nation, I am confident that Americans, above all our friends, can respect and appreciate why Canadians are concerned to give due attention to their own evolving national priorities.

It does not seem warranted to take the position that our bilateral relations are somehow less successful because of Canada's efforts to achieve national goals that Americans take for granted. Moreover, and this really goes without saying, it is unrealistic to conclude that Canada would acquiesce in what it regarded as a decline in its relations with the United States.

The active assertion of national will in both nations requires that we acknowledge the legitimate aspirations and interests of the other, that we recognize the changes that are taking place in Canada and the United States, and that we take into account the fundamental desire of Canadians and Americans that their relations, at bedrock, be mutually beneficial.

Against this background, I think we are just beginning a long but orderly process that will involve a reasonable and constructive readjustment in our relations, in which each of us grows more aware of the other's proper concerns. We begin with the advantages of a long-standing friendship, and of a substantial degree of common interest. Canadians are the first to recognize the contribution to peace and world betterment that United States international leadership represents. And I think you will agree that there are many ways in which Canada does assist in shouldering the burden.

I look forward to our talks tomorrow as being a prime example of the kind of dialogue that marks our relations. And I am confident the frequent consultations that Dr. Kissinger and I have found so useful will have established a pattern for the future.

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