

I am very happy to be in Los Angeles tonight. I am told that Los Angelenos are among the most optimistic of Americans. It isn't hard to see why. As I worked on this speech in Ottawa in thirty below zero temperatures, I found it hard not to be envious. There is no truth to the rumour, incidentally, that I am here to negotiate with Mayor Bradley to make Los Angeles Canada's winter capital. To move Parliament Hill to Beverly Hills, so to speak. Nor am I here to try to trade Vince Ferragamo back to the Rams.

I was puzzled at first when I read the theme of this colloquium, "Canada and the United States in the 1980's: Partnership, Conflict or ...?". Partnership or conflict. Black or white. With us or against us. I am afraid that international life in the last years of the twentieth century promises to be much more complex, even among the closest of neighbours and allies, than the theme of this colloquium suggests. We are undoubtedly going to have partnership and conflict. Nevertheless, in these complex times, I do have a simple message.

I want to make three points. First, we are the best friend the United States has. Second, we are the most important business partner you have. Third, Canada is not a replica of the United States and won't always do the same things in the same way as you.

Some of you will hold all three of these propositions to be self-evident. Some others among you may doubt all three. Some will not have thought about Canada in these terms before. Nonetheless, this message is true and it bears repeating because these are dangerous times.

East and West are armed as never before.

Events in Poland confirm the lesson of communism: it does not free man's spirit nor satisfy his daily needs but rather concentrates the power of the state and represses dissent.

In the West, some Europeans, mindful of their past and fearful of the future, are tempted to try to opt out of this nuclear age.

Everywhere, the fabric of morality is frayed -- violence claims innocent victims in Tehran, El Salvador, Argentina, and in our own streets. Anwar Sadat is murdered, the Pope is attacked, President Reagan is the target of an assassin's bullet.