

Canada Council or the Canadian Broadcasting Co-operation or other instruments which define the distinctive nature of Canada. And, for their part, the Americans will not be discussing their foreign policy, right-to-work laws, or the Stars and Stripes. We won't be trading Mike Duffy for Dan Rather, or the Blue Jays for the Royals.

On the other hand, enhancement of trade with the US could strengthen our economic base and provide us with increased means to finance excellence in education, the arts, science and technology, social programs, international development and national defence. That would strengthen our sovereignty and reinforce our sense of pride as a people.

Increased prosperity lets us pursue Canadian social and cultural policies appropriate to our own conceptions, values and needs. That is the essence of sovereignty — being able to do what we want to do. What limits us today is not our will but our economy. Icebreakers cost money. So do dance troupes and social programs, and the other instruments of sovereignty.

The question of Canada's sovereignty and sovereign identity is not new to me. *Je connais quelque chose de mon pays dans mes deux langues* [I know something about my country in my two languages.] For eight long months, four years ago, I fought and changed a constitutional measure, precisely because I believe it offended the nature of my country. In two public incarnations, I have had the honour to help the Canadian people express our nature in response to foreign crises, once in Ethiopia, once on the Indochinese seas, with acts of generosity and sacrifice. Like my Prime Minister, and many of our colleagues, I came into active politics in response to Mr. Diefenbaker's vision and had the honour, a month ago, to announce sovereign decisions to ensure that northern integrity which he proclaimed.

I know something about this country — its strength, its contradictions, its sense of vulnerability. My own view is that, in recent years, we have become much stronger, as a national community, much more sure of our ability to compete.

The Canadian vision of the New World is different from the American dream. It is based on our own values, born of our culture, our history, our climate and geography. Canadians have a right to demand that our government preserve these values and protect them.

When the "national policy" was introduced in 1879, Canada was a struggling infant. Trade barriers were seen as a necessary part of a general economic program aimed at linking the new country together on an East-West axis, settling the West through a transcontinental transportation system, and building a domestic manufacturing sector.

But the Canada of 1985 is not the fragile newcomer to the family of nations that it was at Confederation. We have come of age, and the expectations of our citizens have matured. It is now appropriate for Canada to be more assertive, both as to who we are and what we can achieve.

As I indicated earlier, our economic relations with the United States have grown steadily over the past several decades. Does anyone seriously believe that Canadians have less sense of national identity today than we did in 1935? Is our sense of ourselves less vital now than 50 years ago?