

It has been said that foreign policy is simply an extension abroad of a country's domestic objectives. While this is, in some respects an oversimplification, Canada's foreign policy in fact is a true reflection of the interests and concerns of Canadians generally. Our growing involvement in international affairs is an indication of our increasing maturity, and our awareness that we can only develop and enjoy the Canadian potential in a world that is stable and secure. Thus there is a frankly acknowledged element of self-preservation in much that we do.

But we have never been afraid of such frankness or of legitimate compromise for without it, there would be no Canada. Our 110 year history is made up of a series of concessions and accommodations that one group or region has been prepared to make to another. This flexibility based on tolerance and understanding, has been the key to the survival and growth of our Canadian confederation. Today, we are discovering as we have many times before, the need for a re-dedication to national unity. On this 110th birthday, Canadian pride in the unique arrangement we have forged between two founding peoples is tempered by a growing concern that after more than a century of survival, our special brand of federalism is threatened by the re-emergence of long smouldering divisive issues.

Fortunately most Canadians, whatever their origins, are alert to the danger and share a common determination to take the steps necessary to preserve a united Canada. Our confidence comes not only from this traditional willingness to adapt to changing circumstance nor from practical necessity as good and valid a reason as this can be. Canada will survive because of its people's innate sense of fairness and their willingness to recognize and correct matters when any groups basic rights are not being fully recognized. And over all, there is a deep-seated though infrequently articulated sense of anadian nationhood, embracing all Canadians in every region which is stronger than the tensions, prejudices and even physical distances that have a natural tendency to divide.

No country has an inalienable right to exist if its people choose otherwise. History is strewn with the wrecks of nations falsely convinced of their immortality. But if a country as lavishly endowed as Canada cannot survive, then we must truly despair for the fate of less fortunate lands. Such despair is not warranted. On this Canadian birthday, the traditional wish that there may be many more is coupled with my unshakable conviction and my determination that there will be.