

CANADA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM: BUILDING AN EFFECTIVE
RELATIONSHIP IN A NEW AGE.

I AM GRATEFUL TO THE CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS FOR GIVING ME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE WITH YOU MY THOUGHTS ABOUT A SUBJECT VERY MUCH ON MY MIND, RELATIONS BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM.

IT GIVES ME SPECIAL SATISFACTION TO WELCOME TO CANADA, AND PARTICULARLY TO MY HOME PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA, OUR DISTINGUISHED VISITORS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM, WHO ARE HERE FOR THE COLLOQUIUM ON BRITISH-CANADIAN RELATIONS. I WISH TO EXTEND A PERSONAL GREETING TO BARONESS YOUNG, THE BRITISH MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS. I AM ALSO DELIGHTED TO SEE AMONG US CANADA'S MAN IN LONDON, MY OLD FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE, THE HONOURABLE DON JAMIESON.

THE PURPOSE OF TOMORROW'S COLLOQUIUM, ENTITLED "CANADA, BRITAIN AND THE ATLANTIC COMMUNITIES: BILATERAL LINKS IN A MULTILATERAL WORLD", IS TO TAKE STOCK OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND TO HELP ILLUMINATE THE WAY AHEAD FOR US. THAT IS A DAUNTING ENTERPRISE. WE ARE, EACH OF US, TRYING TO COPE WITH COMPLEX, CHALLENGING AND EVEN DANGEROUS TIMES -- WITH THREATS TO THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM, WITH EROSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADING SYSTEM AND WITH STRAINED RELATIONS BETWEEN EAST AND WEST. CANADA AND BRITAIN ARE CLOSE ASSOCIATES IN ATTACKING ALL OF THOSE PROBLEMS AND FORTIFYING OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP IS AN IMPORTANT PRIORITY IN THIS PERILOUS ATMOSPHERE.

THE PATRIATION OF CANADA'S CONSTITUTION IN 1982 CONSECRATED A FUNDAMENTAL AND IRREVOCABLE CHANGE IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, A CHANGE WHICH HAD BEEN UNDERWAY SINCE THE NINETEEN-THIRTIES. THE POST-WAR ERA SAW AN END TO COLONIALISM AND EMPIRE, A NEW EMPHASIS ON MULTILATERAL RELATIONS IN THE SPIRIT OF DUMBARION OAKS, BRETTON WOODS AND THE HAVANA CONFERENCE, AND A GROWING SUPRANATIONAL ETHOS IN EUROPE.

IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT BRITAIN WAS PULLED BETWEEN THE COMMONWEALTH, THE EUROPEAN CONTINENT AND AMERICA, WHERE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIPS BASED ON HISTORY, KINSHIP AND WARTIME COOPERATION PREVAILED WITH BOTH CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES. AND IT WAS NOT SURPRISING THAT THE FORCES OF HISTORY GRADUALLY BROUGHT BRITAIN AND EUROPE TOGETHER, ECONOMICALLY AND INSTITUTIONALLY NOT TO SAY GEOGRAPHICALLY.