

AS WE PURSUE THIS IMPORTANT TASK, WE APPRECIATE THE ATTITUDE OF OUR AMERICAN FRIENDS. THE TOTAL ABSENCE OF ANY IMPROPER INTERFERENCE IS ONLY WHAT WE WOULD EXPECT FROM A TRUSTED NEIGHBOR. IT SHOULD BE AN EXAMPLE FOR OTHERS.

INDEED THERE IS MUCH IN OUR RELATIONSHIP THAT OTHERS COULD EMULATE. WE LIVE IN A WORLD WHERE TRUST BETWEEN NEIGHBORS IS IN WOEFULLY SHORT SUPPLY AND WHERE SUSPICION AND CYNICISM ARE THE PRINCIPAL INGREDIENTS IN INTERNATIONAL DEALINGS. HOW SATISFYING IN SUCH A CLIMATE TO KNOW THAT IN CANADA-UNITED STATES RELATIONS A SIMPLE PHONE CALL BETWEEN OTTAWA AND WASHINGTON IS OFTEN ENOUGH TO RESOLVE A SERIOUS PROBLEM AND THAT A HANDSHAKE CAN SERVE AS WELL AS A COMPLEX TREATY.

WE CANADIANS WANT TO KEEP THINGS THAT WAY; I AM SURE YOU AMERICANS DO TOO. AND WE WILL.

MR. SECRETARY, AND HONOURED GUESTS, I WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE A TOAST TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE WARMTH AND FRIENDSHIP SHARED BY CANADIANS IN ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY WITH THEIR FELLOWS IN THE UNITED STATES.