

THAT THERE IS ACROSS-THE-BOARD PROGRESS TOWARDS RESOLUTION. THIS IS YET ANOTHER MARK OF THE GOOD STATE OF CANADA-U.S. RELATIONS, FOR IN TO-DAY'S TROUBLED ECONOMIC TIMES, COUNTRIES USUALLY MOVE INSTINCTIVELY TOWARDS ISOLATION, PROTECTION AND CONFRONTATION.

NO ONE SPEECH CAN COVER THE FULL RANGE OF CANADA-UNITED STATES RELATIONS. EVEN IF IT COULD, WE CAN BE CERTAIN THAT BEFORE THE WORDS WERE UTTERED, NEW ELEMENTS WOULD BE ADDED AND OTHER NO LONGER RELEVANT ISSUES DELETED. SUCH IS THE NATURE OF ONE OF THE MOST COMPLEX AND DYNAMIC BILATERAL ASSOCIATIONS IN THE WORLD.

DESPITE THIS EVER-CHANGING PATTERN THERE ARE, NEVERTHELESS, CERTAIN CONSTANTS IN THE RELATIONSHIP, MOST OF THEM HIGHLY DESIRABLE AND POSITIVE BUT A FEW, AS WE HAVE SEEN, THAT PRODUCE ON-GOING, INEVITABLE TENSIONS. THESE CALL FOR CONSTANT ATTENTION AND MUTUAL SENSITIVITY IF THEY ARE TO BE KEPT WITHIN MANAGEABLE LIMITS.

WHEN SPEAKING OF OUR COMMON INTERESTS AND CHARACTERISTICS, THE TEMPTATION TO INDULGE IN HIGH-BLOWN RHETORIC IS ALMOST IRRESISTIBLE. BY ANY MEASUREMENT, OURS IS A REMARKABLE AND UNIQUE EXAMPLE TO THE WORLD. IN MY EXTENSIVE TRAVELS, I HAVE FOUND NOTHING IN EITHER THE DEVELOPED OR THE DEVELOPING WORLD THAT COMES EVEN REMOTELY