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and alone. Our soldiers died, and our missionaries proselytized, for universal causes, but our images were insular, and our great political debates were about *not* being British than *not* being American. It is ironic that we have become simultaneously more sure of our ourselves, and less able to stand apart.

Everyone who understands geography and trading statistics will know why a new Government of Canada would give priority to our relations with the United States. They are our biggest trading partner and the world's most powerful economy. Moreover, they are our friends but, for the last several years, we have not seemed to be treating them that way. That relation is the logical place for a new Canadian Government to start a recovery that is based on trade and competitiveness. Obviously, we cannot stop there and, just as obviously, we can't let our trading relations or our North-American relations dictate our international policy. But they are, legitimately, central parts of what we can do in the world. A country without growth cannot help others develop. A country that fears its best friend won't be much of a mediator.

I am, of course, aware that the speed with which we have acted to repair Canada-US relations can create questions about our interests elsewhere. Let me answer that this way: Canada would be crazy to lock ourselves into North America. Our interests, including our markets, are international, not continental. In the next few years, our greatest new growth will come in trade across the Pacific. Our ties with Europe are deep, economic, cultural, permanent and part of our nature.

March was more than the month of the Quebec Summit. In that sixth month of our term, we increased our obligations to NATO in Europe by 1 200 personnel and set up the National Committee in Canada for Pacific Economic Co-operation to ensure private and public sector co-operation in building our markets and our contacts in Asia and the Pacific Rim. It is a month in which the Prime Minister has been, and I will be, in the Soviet Union. My visit will be the first by a Canadian foreign minister in more than a decade and, in addition to meetings in Moscow, I am deliberately taking the time to go into the resource and frontier areas of Siberia, where Canada and the Soviet Union have so much to learn from one another. On all these matters, and others, we intend to maintain Canada's constructive presence internationally, sharpening our interests in economic realities, bringing new energy to relations where, under the old regime, Canada might have become complacent. The proper description of our orientation is not that we are looking southward, but that we are looking outward.

I also know that some commentators, who enjoy the soft luxury of commentary, have suggested that friendship with the United States inevitably limits our independence and our influence. I hope they will begin to examine their own premises as thoroughly as they pretend to examine others. I made the point in Parliament, on Tuesday, that Canada's international reputation as a respected mediator and middle power was won at a time when no one questioned our friendship with the United States. There is no evidence, now or historically, to conclude that tension with our closest neighbour increases our credibility in the world. I believe the opposite to be the case, particularly when the neighbour is the United States. The goodwill that was evident at Quebec City gives us an access to American leaders that ill-will would not. In addition, it has the simple advantage of being honest. In the last ten days, Mr. Mulroney met both Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Reagan. Both know where Canada stands. We are part

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