

At a moment in the history of mankind when men and women cannot escape from the knowledge that the only hope for humanity is the willingness of peoples of differing complexions and cultures and beliefs to live peaceably together, you have not forsaken Washington's high standards. You have chosen to declare your belief in the protection of minorities, in the richness of diversity, in the necessity of accommodation. You have contributed new fibre to that seamless fabric we call the history of mankind -- that stumbling, incoherent quest by individuals and by nations for freedom and dignity.

Liberty and the pursuit of happiness have not been theoretical concepts for Americans, nor have they been regarded as elusive goals. You have sought each with vigour, and shared with all mankind the joy and the creativity that are the products of freedom. You have illustrated throughout your history the resiliency, the dedication and the inherent decency of American society.

The United States achievement in recent years of conducting a great social revolution -- overcoming difficulties of immense complication and obduracy, and doing so through the democratic process -- is surely a model for all nations devoted to the dignity of the human condition. Freedom-loving men and women everywhere are the beneficiaries of your example. Not the least among them are Canadians, for whom the United States has long been the single most important external influence -- the weather only excepted.

We in Canada, facing internal tensions with roots extending back to the seventeenth century, have much to gain from the wisdom and discipline and patience that you, in this country, in this generation, have brought to bear to reduce racial tensions, to broaden legal rights, to provide opportunity to all.

Canadians long ago determined to govern themselves by a parliamentary system that favours the flowering of basic aspirations -- for freedom, for justice, for individual dignity. The rule of law, sovereignty of Parliament, a broad sharing of power with the provinces, and official support of the pluralistic nature of Canadian society have combined to create in Canada a community where freedom thrives to an extent not exceeded anywhere else, a community where equality of opportunity between people and between regions is a constant goal.

The success of our efforts in the first century following Confederation was promising, but by no means complete. We created a society of individual liberty and of respect for human rights. We produced an economic standard of living that approaches your own. We have not, however, created the conditions in which French-speaking

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