

Canada. Over 1,300 scholars and students from China have been received by Canadian educational institutions. Scores of prominent Canadian and Chinese artists and sports teams have performed in each other's country.

Like so many Canadians, as a young boy I was utterly taken with the mystery and excitement of Chinese history and geography and steeped myself in your myths and traditions. Later, I began what has been a life-long fascination with your philosophers, artists, strategists and historians. It seemed obvious to me even then that to the extent that the world could not benefit from Chinese experience and vision it would be a poorer place.

It was therefore with particular satisfaction that I found myself in a position to initiate the process which led to the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries. I hope that experience helped to speed China on the course which returned your country to the world stage and once again enabled its wise counsel to be heard in the community of nations. Some of the most valued memories of my visit to China in 1973 include the opportunity to meet Chairman Mao Tse-tung, to discuss politics with Chou En-Lai far into the night, and to be accompanied on my travels to the south of China by Chairman Deng Xiaoping whose wise opinion on world affairs I have always respected.

[*Translation*]

A country of great tradition, China has, as I remarked earlier, been the origin of many scientific discoveries for hundreds of years. Canada still has much to learn from China, but nevertheless, there are areas in which Canada could make a very useful contribution to your modernization program. I am thinking, for instance, of a number of high technology sectors, as well as the development of your resources, especially the oil and gas industry, both on the mainland and offshore.

In the space of nearly fourteen years, Canada's trade with the People's Republic of China has grown until today that country has become our fifth largest market. Chinese exports to Canada have also risen significantly over the years and this trend should continue.

[*English*]

Mr. Premier, if harmony distinguishes our bilateral relationships, the same cannot be said for the international climate within which the future of that relationship must unfold. There is abroad, especially since the beginning of this decade, a growing uneasiness with the direction of international affairs, particularly the state of relations between the superpowers. Our people are concerned about the future and most of all about the prospect of war in a nuclear age.

Mr. Premier, we are faced with a daunting challenge. Either this generation of leaders must reduce the number of nuclear weapons and prevent their spread, or we bequeath to our children a future where the chances of global destruction increase every day. Yet it would be a dangerous fallacy to

expect stability to be achieved only through numerical adjustments and technological containment, however significant.

It is at least equally important to bring about a fundamental change in attitudes and intentions if we are to assure the peace we all so desperately seek. Over the last few months I have sought to draw attention to the gravity of the present situation and to influence the trend of East-West relations. I have been voicing the concerns of a great many Canadians who are deeply troubled by uncertainty over superpower intentions and by fears of growing nuclear arsenals whose destructive potential already defies comprehension.

Premier Zhao, I have sought counsel with many statesmen and world leaders on these matters. You and I have discussed, both here and in Beijing, the role that political leadership must play in reducing international tensions. We live in a multipolar world and China is one of its essential compass points. We in Canada highly value the opinions of China on the urgent questions of international security. Your weight is undeniable in any global reckoning.

China must take its full place in the world community. China, as a permanent member of the Security Council, has responsibilities of leadership in the task of reducing the threat of nuclear war. Indeed, the United Nations Charter confers special rights and veto powers on the permanent members of the Security Council who, not incidentally, constitute the nuclear weapons fraternity. These rights and privileges in maintaining international security also confer special responsibilities. But, of course, the primary responsibility for nuclear disarmament lies with the superpowers. With nuclear arsenals which could threaten life on earth many times over, they have heavy responsibilities not only to each other but to all of us. We cannot wait until the United States and the Soviet Union however, pursuing some internal superpower logic, are ready to reach agreement. We must demonstrate our stake in their deliberations and force their attention to the threat to which they subject the rest of mankind.

All nations and all political leaders have the duty to do what they can to stop the nuclear arms race and to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. Thus we can take some satisfaction in the knowledge that, at a time when virtually all arms control negotiations have broken down, the foreign ministers of East and West are now gathering in Stockholm to discuss security and confidence-building measures in Europe. Let us hope that the period of megaphone diplomacy may be coming to an end.

Mr. Premier, the history of your country is measured in millenia. You know that on issues of war and peace there are no permanent solutions. Peace must be continuously constructed, nurtured and maintained through the efforts of honest men seeking happiness, prosperity and, in the nuclear age, the survival of their people. Thus, the quest for peace is never-ending. In this sense, our talks this morning and your presence in this Parliament, Premier Zhao, are important building blocks for peace. For do we not both represent men and women of goodwill?