

central and regional authorities is almost always a complex and contentious issue. But I want to assure you that while our debate may be heated at times, it is a process that has been going on for many years and the outcome is beyond doubt: for Canadians, national unity is indispensable, and as we surmount our differences, we will emerge stronger and more united than ever.

I would like to conclude with the following general observations. Canadians and Americans have never feared the future. Indeed, our eagerness to embrace it has been a characteristic of our societies. At the moment, however, we seem to be looking forward with less certainty than in the past. Perhaps at the root of our sense of frustration is the gap between our great capabilities and our apparent inability to bring them to bear on the world's problems.

I would hope, instead, that we have gleaned from the past decade a more accurate appraisal of our limitations, and that we now have a more realistic basis from which to go forward. I have no doubt that our countries will build creatively on the experience of the Seventies, so that the opportunities of the Eighties will not be lost in our concern over its perils.