

mining operations, Canadian experience and Canadian accomplishments are at the forefront in all the world, as are they in the development and generation of energy from diverse sources -- hydrocarbon, hydroelectric, nuclear.

This is important to you on this continent, and it is important to us. It is important because of the "complementarity" of so much in our economies. The skills, the tools, the technology, the products required in so many instances by so many Latin American countries, are available from Canada in volume and in quantity. And they are available from a people who still regard themselves as engaged, as do you, in the task of nation-building. The frontier is not a distant notion to Canadians. It is nearby, in terms both of geography and of time. We have much to do in Canada, much to accomplish, and we regard the challenges with excitement. We sense in Latin America the same spirit of challenge and excitement, and this is creating a bond between us stronger and more flexible than is possible through any formal legal links.

It is this human spirit that will be predominant in the long run. It is the human spirit that is the essential feature of our societies. And it is the human spirit that draws us together in terms of shared goals and aspirations, of broadly identical values, of a desire for a happier, more satisfactory and more dignified life for all the peoples of the western hemisphere. We have the opportunity in this hemisphere to demonstrate to the world the advantages co-operation can bring in the enhancement of the quality of our lives, in the manifestation of social justice and in the increase of economic benefit. I am delighted to have an opportunity to participate in that process, and I salute those here for the important contribution they are making.

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