

in charge of our Embassy in Washington and doing a first-class job of conveying to that level, as well as to the community at large, facts about Canada. But we must do a great deal more.

One of the things we have learnt, for example, looking at the United States from the Canadian perspective, is that we can have (as we frequently, and indeed one could say consistently, do) the best possible relations with the Administration in Washington. The two federal governments can have a total understanding of what it is that each is seeking to do in relation to the other. But in the United States there are other publics. There is, under your system, for example, the Congressional element of your governmental structure, and there it is important, from our point of view, to enhance and increase our contacts with your elected representatives so that they too will understand. Because there can be a chasm between a relation with the Administration and [a relation] with the Congressional leadership. In addition, of course, as this audience so vividly represents and reflects, there is a public in the United States made up of informed and concerned citizens of various independent bodies, of private groups, so that the challenge to us in Canada is, in the vernacular, to "cover all the bases", and I should hope also that there will be the same kind of interest in the United States so that this new thrust which we are undertaking in Canada will be reciprocated.

I may say to you that I am saying today for the first time, and before this audience (and I am delighted that I have this audience before whom to make the announcement), that so importantly do I regard Canada/United States relations that I have instructed our own Department of External Affairs to establish a bureau to deal exclusively with Canada-U.S. relations. Up to now we have had a hemisphere bureau with a United States Division in it, but with the bureau dealing also with the Caribbean and Latin America. Beginning now, we shall have exclusively Canada-U.S. Bureau. And this reflects my awareness, and that of the Government, of the increasing complexity of Canada-U.S. relations and the number of vitally-important decisions that we are going to have to make jointly, both of a bilateral nature and, as we become increasingly aware that we in this North American continent are going to have to act jointly, on many multilateral questions as well.

It is these bilateral and multilateral questions that I should just like to touch on very briefly in the remaining time that I have before answering your questions. Bilaterally, let me begin by telling you how pleased we were with the outcome of the discussions between President Carter and my Prime Minister, which I was privileged to attend in Washington, and how I believe that those talks set in place the basis for a new and a closer working relation. We have looked for many years on each side of the border for an appropriate mechanism for keeping in place the multitude of issues that arise between us. We have tried the structured form of communication and negotiation, but we have concluded, in the context of what I said a few moments ago with regard to the unique nature of Canada-U.S. relations, that a number of things are necessary and, most important, our capacity to discuss and talk frankly and frequently about the range of subjects that arises and to do so in a way that will ensure that they do not reach the stage of becoming major irritants.