

[English]

Mr. President, you take on your awesome responsibilities at a time of stress and crisis in international affairs. The world badly needs the courage and wisdom of the United States, that courage that it can provide under your leadership, Sir. I speak for all Canadians when I say we are ready to work with you in the cause of stability, security, and humanity.

Your task, our joint task, will not be an easy one. Many people fear that the world has become too complicated, that events have spiralled beyond the control of individuals or governments. They are tempted to give up, to opt out, and to hide from reality and responsibility. That way lies oblivion.

I believe we must neither cower before reality nor oversimplify it. Yet complexity should not obscure plain truth. On this most favoured of continents we cannot simply turn our gaze inwards and ignore poverty, ignorance, and injustice elsewhere.

To the east, Mr. President, we face a system that seems ill-designed to respond to change and growth. Nevertheless, the Soviet Union and the eastern European states may come to accommodate themselves at least to the dynamics of their own region. If, for example, the Polish people are able to work out their own destiny within a framework accepted by their neighbours, then they will have matched revolution with a no less remarkable evolution. Through courage and restraint they will have begun the process of making their reality more Polish and their system more responsive, more adaptable, and ultimately more stable.

In the west, Mr. President, we have a long familiarity with the pressures of change. In the past decade our economies have undergone a severe test as trusted assumptions have been found wanting. In the 1970s we were buffeted by the rule shock of rapid energy price increases. We were forced to recognize that the old monopoly of economic power was coming to an end. And yet, for all the strains upon us, our political and economic framework has survived, survived at least as well as the chicken and the neck to which Winston Churchill once referred to this chamber.

Each of the western countries has met the challenge of change in its own way. Since all of us have our own distinctive economic strengths and weaknesses, our solutions have had to be diverse. We have found no simple answers; we have fashioned no single way. With co-operation and consultation, however, we have been able to complement our various approaches.

At another level, though, we do have a single approach. Let there be no doubt about our unity in the defence of our most precious heritage—that democracy which is envied by those who rightly crave it and feared by those who wrongly deny its force.

As to North and South, we are not dismayed by the complexity of the problems. The poverty of the developing countries does not have to be permanent, nor is it unalloyed. The gap between the two groups is neither racial nor unbridgeable. In the growth of the oil producing states, in the vigour of the

newly industrialized countries, there is convincing evidence of the dynamism and potential of the developing world. In the unity of the "south", there is not so much an identity of circumstances as an idea, a point of view, a shared sense of injustice. The poorer peoples are at the mercy of circumstances that leave them out of balance, often out of hope, and too often vulnerable to opportunities who come poaching in troubled waters. The industrialized democracies have not only a human duty but a strategic obligation to help developing countries in their struggle, their survival, and their success.

Mr. President, humanity will prevail. We in the new world can never be pessimists, for we are in a very real sense the custodians of the future. You have reminded us of this, Sir, on both sides of the 49th parallel. You have done so by evoking a past in which both our peoples have been the architects of change, not its victims.

I wish you well in your task and comfort in your burden. May part of that comfort come from the assurance of Canada's abiding friendship for your country and for your people.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Ronald W. Reagan (President of the United States): Mr. Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker of the Senate, Madam Speaker of the House of Commons, honourable Senators, members of the House of Commons, distinguished members of the diplomatic corps, ladies and gentlemen:

I came to this great capital of this great nation by crossing a border not which divides us, but a border which joins us.

[Text]

Nous nous sommes souvent serré la main par-dessus cette frontière et nous le faisons une fois encore aujourd'hui.

Des voix: Bravo!

[English]

For those of my own party who accompanied me, I have said that we have often shaken hands across this border and we are doing it once again today.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Reagan: Nancy and I have arrived for this, the first state visit of my Presidency, in the spirit expressed so well by a Calgary writer and publisher some 60 years ago. He said that the difference between a friend and an acquaintance is that a friend helps where an acquaintance merely advises.

We come here not to advise, not to lecture. We are here to listen and to work with you. We are here as friends, not as acquaintances.

Some years ago Nancy and I both belonged to a very honourable profession in California. And as I prepared for these remarks today, I learned that among those in the motion picture industry in Hollywood it has been estimated that perhaps as many as one out of five are of Canadian origin.