

New controversies will arise, or old ones renew, but we are a stronger people now, able to stand easily as equals on this continent, and in the world. That is the spirit in which we seek to renew and expand our relations with the United States of America.

Several specific challenges await us. The meeting in Quebec City next month will set an important tone. Negotiations on trade relations will be critical to our future. Opportunities to work together will be important — whether in the private sector, or in public ventures.

Let me refer to one particular public venture. Next year, Vancouver, will be host to Expo 86, which has as its theme transportation and communication. Between 40 and 45 countries, including many on the Pacific Rim, will participate. Of the 13 million anticipated visitors, we estimate that 40 per cent will come from the West Coast of the USA. I am encouraged by recent developments concerning the possible participation of California at Expo 86. Given this state's significant role on the Pacific Rim, your outstanding contributions to the transportation and communications sectors, and your many links to Canada, I sincerely hope that there will be a separate and distinctive California pavillon at Expo 86. That would be a good way to demonstrate, on the West Coast of our continent, that spirit of partnership which your president and our prime minister will express on St. Patrick's Day in Quebec City.

The election of September 4 in Canada did more than elect a new government. It expressed a clear desire to change attitudes that many Canadians had found unsatisfactory. The new government campaigned prominently on undertakings to improve relations with the United States, and to strengthen our own economic performance.

We won a massive — and a genuinely national — victory, with equally intense support in our largest cities, and the most remote villages of the Arctic. Part of our opportunity is to act as a government for all of Canada, expressing our Canadian identity in action, by moving the whole nation forward together. Part of our responsibility is to create conditions for permanent jobs and growth. We are a distinctive, sovereign nation, with characteristics and resources no other nation can claim. But we are also part of a very good neighbourhood, your closest neighbour, your best friend. We have a lot to do together in the next four years.

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