

a more constructive level. On that occasion, I found that both sides had a number of points in common, and I urged Eastern and Western heads of State to set aside their differences and concentrate on what draws them together. In fact, we all have the right, in fact we have a duty, to try and reduce the risk of nuclear war.

[English]

Mexico and Mexicans have earned international credentials for independent viewpoint, fair mindedness and common sense. That is why I am encouraged that Mexico is currently spokesman for the Group of 77. You no doubt regret, as I do, Mr. President, the present state of North-South dialogue after the strenuous efforts Mexico and Canada made in recent years, especially in Cancun, to stimulate progress. We hope that Mexico's moderation and restraint will help to move the dialogue back on to a constructive path. Success in that endeavour would serve the cause of peace in a very fundamental way.

In the same spirit, I congratulate Mexico and the other Contadora members for their imagination and courage in seeking a regional solution to the potentially explosive situation in Central America. Your approach to this web of most difficult problems is above all realistic in its aim of building a consensus on a set of socio-political security objectives for Central America.

As a consensus develops, Canada will be prepared to help with whatever political or economic support we can effectively offer. We are consulting closely with the three Contadora working commissions. We will also be in close touch with the Action Committee for Socio-Economic Development—CADE-SCA.

Canada's approach to these problems, as frequently enunciated in Canada and in the region by my colleague, the Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, is to recognize that the basic causes of instability and conflict are economic and social in nature. We look to Governments in the region for advice on how enduring solutions are most likely to come about. We are firmly persuaded that these are problems which must be seen, as they will be solved, in the light of the human needs of the people directly affected, and not in terms of ideological arguments. The imposition by force of external ideologies is seldom motivated by a genuine concern for the needs of the people.

Amid the international tensions and violence of our times, the right to speak becomes a responsibility, the need to hear a duty. That is why we are gathered in this Chamber today to listen to your views firsthand.

Each of our political parties, in its own way, is apprehensive about the dangerous deterioration in the security situation in the neighbouring regions that you know so well. Therefore be assured, Mr. President, that you are now welcomed eagerly by an audience, both here and in Canada at large, who will be heeding your words of counsel with an open mind and sympathetic heart.

[Translation]

To speak clearly, to dialogue, and to work together in the quest for viable solutions marked by human values and common sense—these are the urgent tasks of our area. The entire world today is trapped in a prison of dilemma, mainly dominated by the nuclear threat, and yet no less dominated by the tyranny of false and outdated ideologies on how society should evolve. As nations, we all search for the way out of such a prison, while remaining faithful to our own traditions and giving loose rein to our hopes and dreams in order to enjoy the fruits of the amazing human mind. I firmly believe that humanity will find its way; it has no other option.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome today the President of Mexico, Mr. Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado.

[Translation]

Senor Miguel de la Madrid (President of the United Mexican States): Mr. Speaker, distinguished Members of the Canadian Parliament, Mr. Prime Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a great honour to accept the invitation extended to me by this distinguished body which represents the people of Canada. The Canadian Parliament combines the quest for the democratic perfection of the nation and the desire for its people's active participation in the tasks of the State. This forum confirms the validity of the desires and hopes with which the Founding Fathers of this country viewed its future.

Canada has forged its history and its future in a continuing effort to build a system of life that is firmly sustained by values and principles. The vigour of its political institutions and relations of peaceful coexistence stem from its perseverance in the practice of democracy as their mainstay.

Constitutional balances and counterbalances, the fostering of representative assembly, respect for social diversity and the opinions of the citizenry, and the active support of one's chosen party are constants in public power based on a broad and firm community foundation.

No democratic State can stand on the fragmentation of its society. On the contrary, political legitimacy must be based on the sentiments of the nation, on the co-ordination of action and needs of different sectors and groups; on maintaining a balance between the social distribution of responsibilities and the scope of governmental powers.

In putting its authentic values into practice, each country manifests its unique nature. Canada and Mexico are the result of unique and untransferable experiences. Their histories make it impossible in our times for them to accept that devious attempts be made to impose or force assimilation of foreign systems upon them.

We do not, however, believe in the Utopia of an autarchic system and we assert our identity without shutting ourselves off from enriching contacts with other peoples. We want to join in united efforts, but we refuse to accept any attempt at