

friend and ally. This is familiar ground. I will not cover it again, except to say that while we must accept, live with and be grateful for our interdependence with our North American neighbour, we must constantly be watchful to protect that essential independence of thought and action that is basic to our continued national existence.

These brief comments only touch the surface of the work that has been done in the Department to implement the foreign policy papers. Much more lies ahead. I am satisfied that a strengthened and renewed Department will fulfil its renewed mandate confidently and effectively.