

I am very pleased to have the opportunity to discuss with Canadian and American Rotarians some aspects of my country's relations with the United States. It is especially appropriate because Rotary has done so much to promote friendly relations between our two countries and indeed among all nations of the world in which Rotary is located. Rotary, itself, is an important element in the extensive private exchange between our countries, an exchange between people, families, companies and communities such as Detroit and Windsor. The Rotary motto "Service before Self" is an operational philosophy that provides an inspiring example for all persons engaged in public service.

I am especially pleased, of course, to be in Windsor, an important industrial and service centre and perhaps the only Canadian city in which an American audience may be referred to as our "neighbours from the north". So welcome to all our American friends to Canada's most southern city.

The world we live in is a challenging place and I want to talk about some of these challenges today and their effect on Canada/USA relations.

Never in the history of our two countries have we faced more difficult and complex problems; yet relations between Canada and the United States have seldom been better than they are to-day. To be sure there are tensions and still unresolved issues of great importance, but there is no bitterness, no sense of confrontation. Rather there is a strong and mutually shared commitment to consultation and co-operation and the results are obvious.