

their potential is far larger. The reason why I believe that there is this potential is the great complementarity that exists between our two countries, a complementarity arising out of the many areas in which we can balance and support each other. Indeed, there are some important parallels between us: parallels in our history, parallels in our positions in the hemisphere, parallels in our economic needs and parallels in our great futures.

To begin with, I suppose I might mention that my native province, Newfoundland, was almost called Brazil. For it was in 1481, eleven years before the epic voyage of Columbus, according to the latest historical research, that the men of Devon, that small corner of England that has produced so many of the settlers of my province, first sailed across the Atlantic and discovered Newfoundland. They named their find Brazil. If it had not been for the accident of history that John Cabot, on his voyage to Newfoundland in 1497, thought that he had discovered the island and so named it Newfoundland or Terra Nova, the name Brazil might not have been available, when Pedro Cabral discovered your magnificent country in 1500. So you see that, from the first, the histories of our two countries have been at least nominally entwined. I could add other examples from the history of the early days of our two countries. It is not these isolated facts of history that interest me most, however, but rather the similarity in our patterns of development and the similarity in the results to which I wish to draw your attention.

Canada and Brazil, alone of all the great countries of the Americas, have been able to achieve their independence without the horrors of civil war, and the consequent disruption of the cultural ties with Europe that have often accompanied nationhood in other parts of our hemisphere. Because we both have throughout our history drawn on Europe as well as America we both have been able to develop societies that stand out in many ways from those in the rest of the hemisphere. Canada has been immeasurably helped in this process by the fact that it possesses not one but two major languages, which have allowed it to take advantage of the experience and the richness of two European cultures. Out of this wealth of influences we have sought to take the best, whatever the source, and adapt it to the Canadian experience:

-- Our constitution reflects this. While we are a federation like Brazil and many other countries of the hemisphere, we also have one of the few parliamentary systems in the hemisphere.