

difficult phase, many seek redress in protectionist measures which are frighteningly reminiscent of former times. Canada and Italy both must resist these tendencies.

In the light of these common, complementary and parallel elements in our national outlooks, interests and goals, it is natural that relations between Italy and Canada should be easy and friendly -- devoid of serious problems. But I think we should not take those relationships for granted. In the light of many affinities between us, we together should strive to make these links more effective, productive and rewarding than has been the case to the present. May I suggest a number of endeavours which we should consider exploring?

First, I think both our countries would benefit through more frequent and systematic bilateral consultation on political and economic problems besetting the world. It is true that we have many common relations through multilateral fora such as the U.N., NATO, the GATT and the Economic Summit. But through enhanced bilateral consultation we could more clearly identify and effectively promote common objectives and interests we hold in areas of vital importance to our future well-being.

Secondly, I believe that Canada and Italy should link their efforts to advance the cause of free trade. I would like to ask Italy, as a founder member and senior partner in the Economic European Community (EEC) to press its Common Market partners to resist protectionist pressures and to be more outward-looking; we in Canada with our special ties with the United States will endeavour to impress more convincingly upon that country the need to maintain open and liberal trading policies. Now, when the world is in a period of economic stress, we must all guard against a natural tendency towards protectionist temptations. Canada and Italy, both dependent on international trade, are acutely aware of the reality of interdependence in the modern world. I believe we can both make a constructive contribution by sharing our perceptions, approaches, and experiences in this regard.

In both our countries we must improve our capacities to compete in the international arena. One tangible and constructive way to do this is through enhancing our scientific and technical exchanges. In a related fashion, we should also explore ways of broadening the scope of our economic co-operation. There are many avenues for achieving this -- for example through joint ventures and mutually beneficial investments both at home and in third countries. In this respect, I believe that the fields of agriculture, energy, communications, defence production, and space merit detailed examination and consultation.