

THESE WOULD BE COMMERCIAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN TWO DISTINCT AND SOVEREIGN COUNTRIES, WHOSE INTELLIGENT CO-OPERATION CAN CREATE MORE JOBS, MORE GROWTH, AND MORE ECONOMIC SECURITY ON BOTH SIDES OF THE 49TH PARALLEL. THE ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES OF FREER TRADE ARE UNDENIABLE. BUT WE ALL KNOW THAT MODERN NATIONS ARE MORE THAN ECONOMIES. THE CHALLENGE WILL BE TO STRENGTHEN OUR ECONOMY AND OUR SOVEREIGNTY.

THE QUESTION OF CANADA'S SOVEREIGNTY AND SOVEREIGN IDENTITY IS NOT NEW TO ME. FOR EIGHT LONG MONTHS, FOUR YEARS AGO, I FOUGHT AND CHANGED A CONSTITUTIONAL MEASURE, PRECISELY BECAUSE I BELIEVED IT OFFENDED THE NATURE OF MY COUNTRY. LIKE MY PRIME MINISTER, AND MANY OF OUR COLLEAGUES, I CAME INTO ACTIVE POLITICS IN RESPONSE TO MR. DIEFENBAKER'S VISION AND HAD THE HONOUR, A MONTH AGO, TO ANNOUNCE SOVEREIGN DECISIONS TO ENSURE THAT NORTHERN INTEGRITY WHICH HE PROCLAIMED.

I KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THIS COUNTRY - ITS STRENGTH, ITS CONTRADICTIONS, ITS SENSE OF VULNERABILITY. MY OWN VIEW IS THAT, IN RECENT YEARS, WE HAVE BECOME MUCH STRONGER, AS A NATIONAL COMMUNITY, MUCH MORE SURE OF OUR ABILITY TO COMPETE.