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## LESSON OF AN OLD BATTLEFIELD

*Speaking at the commemoration ceremony of the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Stoney Creek, Ontario, which was fought between forces of Britain and the United States on June 8, 1813, Prime Minister Pearson observed that it was appropriate "to think not about that far-away war but about the results that flowed from it." "Canada was successfully defended," he went on, "and our national future assured. A great part of the success lay in the fact that, when we had had our war, relations between Canada and the United States were transformed"*

*Mr. Pearson then proceeded to discuss the nature of that transformation as follows:*

...The peace made in 1814 acknowledged neither victor nor vanquished. Militarily and territorially, the two parties — the United States and Britain — reverted to the *status quo ante*. But this was an occasion when standing still in form meant great progress in spirit; it meant a radical change in the spirit of the relation between the two countries.

It meant that, at last, Britain accepted all the implications and the consequences of the American Revolution. She became willing to deal with the United States on the basis of true equality. And the United States, for its part, accepted the separate existence of Canada. Implicitly, the Americans recognized that, while we in Canada were not going to join them, we might move towards self-government and independence, through a process of evolution.

## DURABLE PATTERN OF CO-OPERATION

In this spirit, it became possible for the United States and Britain, with increasingly direct participation by Canada, gradually to find ways and means of solving the many problems and differences which remained between them. There were, in particular, very difficult and contentious problems about the border between Canada and the United States and about international waters and fisheries. The techniques of negotiation, conciliation and arbitration which were then evolved set a pattern which has stood the test of time and remains to this day. So do the problems, now more complicated and difficult than ever. For their solution now, goodwill and mutual understanding are needed as never before.

Today, then, we are not only commemorating the 150th anniversary of a military victory. Even more significantly, we are celebrating a century and a half of close, active and mutually profitable co-operation between Canada and the United States. It is a good example of good neighbourhood which is looked at with envy, and could be followed with equal advantage, in many parts of our troubled world. Since 1815 we have had lots of rows — but rows without wars, or without a breach in our friendship. That is a real achievement. Let's keep it that way.

You will remember that, shortly after the war, in 1817, an agreement was signed which is in force to this day and which provided for naval disarmament on the Great Lakes. This was one of the few disarmament agreements in history that worked.

(Over)