

Mr. Chairman, distinguished members of the diplomatic corps, my American hosts and friends, and my Canadian colleagues,

Thank you very much, sir, for the mercifully brief introduction. Whenever I hear that list of portfolios I have mixed emotions because I'm not sure if it's a mark of my competence or simply evidence that I can't hold a job. But in any event I am certainly delighted that in this role I have the opportunity to be with you today. I know it is the conventional kind of salutation to express pleasure at being with a particular audience, but in this case I want to assure you and reaffirm that it is a most genuine pleasure for me. Partly because, as the Chairman said, it is true that I have carried on a life-long love affair with the United States - I come from the Maritime provinces of Canada and during the Second World War we, of course, got to know literally hundreds of thousands of American service men, and in my own province alone our chief export to the United States from that period on has been something of the order of 80,000 brides who are located in virtually every state of the union. And so therefore it is for any Canadian Secretary of State, and particularly for me, a rare pleasure, especially when it is such a prestigious and representative audience as the one to whom I am speaking today.

There is also, I must confess, a practical reason why I chose this particular invitation out of many that I had received to speak in the United States, and it is because no Canadian can fail to be enormously impressed by what is happening here in the so-called Sunbelt of your country. There is no necessity for me to go into great detail about the quite incredible progress that you're making in this part of the world. But I can assure you that we in Canada are increasingly impressed by the developments, for instance, in high technology industries, aviation, and a whole range of others, the remarkable developments that have occurred here and which one has to see to believe, in real estate and related matters. For us in Canada this area has a particular interest since something of the order of 2½ to 3 million Canadians find this region a most convenient and easily accessible escape from our rather rigorous Canadian winters. The result of that, if I may say so, is at the moment some 5 to 600 million dollars last year as a deficit on our balance of payment account on tourism alone.

For all of these reasons we have both an admiration for this southeastern part of the United States, and in addition to that - being the good traders that we are in Canada - we want to get in on the action.