

described as "a paper tiger", leader of a people he had characterized as "imperialist capitalist fascist beasts"? President Nixon has warned the world not to expect too much from this meeting, a warning repeated by Premier Chou. It is sound advice, but to my mind we have already witnessed a miracle in the meeting itself.

If I sound euphoric, that is not what I intend. It is the global interdependence in terms of peace and security that has brought these men together, the sure realization that a world without some kind of working relation between the United States and China is far too dangerous to contemplate. You know, it took nearly two years of patient negotiation to establish diplomatic relations between Canada and China. In the course of these negotiations many difficulties had to be faced and overcome. But I believe the corner was turned when the Chinese finally realized that we were acting on our own behalf, for our own good reasons and in pursuit of our own interests as we saw them, and not as a stalking-horse for the United States. It is perhaps ironic that within a few months the United States started down the same path we had followed.

Interdependence in terms of world prosperity arises from the fact that no country in the world today can be self-sufficient. Even the United States depends on imports to supply its economy and on exports for a significant percentage of its national income. Nations must trade in order to survive, and international trade means interdependence.

History is on the side of those who favour freer trade and the international movement of capital, technology and ideas as a means of promoting the legitimate national aspirations of states, whether they are industrialized, developing or, like Canada, a bit of both. True independence derives from economic strength, not from economic weakness. I venture to say that the people of Newfoundland have greater independence today than they had before union with Canada.

The historical evidence is certainly that freer trade and access to capital, technology and ideas reinforce the ability of individual countries to control and improve their economic performance. I cannot resist adding that the policies of economic nationalism which were so widely practised during the pre-war period did not protect individual countries from the effects of the Great Depression, as Canadians and Newfoundlanders well know. In fact the reverse was true. Moreover, during this recent postwar period, we have seen a dispersal of economic power, not a concentration. The United States, in the postwar era a giant among mortals, is now only one of three, sharing its economic power with the new Europe and Japan.

I am impressed, as I am sure you are, by this growing interdependence of the community of nations. The ability of any country, even the most powerful -- even the United States --, to control its economic destiny is limited. There is no way in which any one country can insulate itself from external economic events and if it were to try it would probably find that it had lost more than it had gained.