

Canadians of accomplishment have demonstrated Canadian excellence to the world. Easier because Canadian exporters and entrepreneurs have shown their ingenuity in high technology telecommunication satellites, computer software, fibre optics, urban transportation, power generating equipment, and other fields. Easier because, last summer at the magnificent Summer Olympics staged in your city, our athletes stood tall on the podium, in cycling, swimming, pistol shooting, canoeing, rowing, boxing, and diving, to mention a few.

Easier because, out of the internal discord within the Canadian family in the last several years, there has emerged a new sense of confidence and equality in Quebec, and in Western Canada, the two communities which had felt most estranged and stifled before. We have just concluded a most successful meeting of Canada's Prime Minister and Premiers - it was held in Regina, in Western Canada. Last fall, when Mr. Mulroney visited Quebec City, the flag of Canada flew over the National Assembly of that province for the first time since the election of the Parti Quebecois government in 1976.

New controversies will arise, or old ones renew, but we are a stronger people now, able to stand easily as equals on this continent, and in the world. That is the spirit in which we seek to renew and expand our relations with the United States of America.

Several specific challenges await us. The meeting in Quebec City next month will set an important tone. Negotiations on trade relations will be critical to our future. Opportunities to work together will be important - whether in the private sector, or in public ventures.

Let me refer to one particular public venture. Next year, Vancouver, will be host to EXPO 86, which has as its theme "Transportation and Communication". Between forty and forty five countries, including many on the Pacific Rim will participate. Of the thirteen million anticipated visitors, we estimate that forty percent will come from the West Coast of the U.S.A. I am encouraged by recent developments concerning the possible participation of California at EXPO 86. Given this state's significant role on the Pacific Rim, your outstanding contributions to the transportation and communications sectors, and your many links to Canada, I sincerely hope that there will be a separate and distinctive California Pavillion at EXPO 86. That would be a good way to demonstrate, on the West Coast of our continent, that spirit of partnership which your President and our Prime Minister will express on St. Patrick's Day in Quebec City.