

To achieve these aims, we need open political dialogue, we also need a broader relationship built on wider contacts and more extensive cooperation. The varied nature of East/West relations means that we cannot afford to be transfixed by any one set of issues, even issues as important as arms control. We need a fuller agenda for acting together at all levels.

The timing of your visit, Sir, is propitious. There are negotiations underway between the United States and your country which we all hope will lead to effective nuclear arms control and disarmament. There has been a change of leadership in both Canada and the Soviet Union. As I mentioned to you in Moscow, both our countries now have young leaders who will be in power for some time. This presents special opportunities for cooperation. What we must do is determine areas in which we have common interests. We can then work towards defining common goals and drawing up an agenda for action.

Your visit will give you an opportunity to see how Canada operates; what our philosophical basis is; what our strengths are; and what the possibilities are of closer cooperation.

We have been able to create a tolerant, humane and dynamic society. We have also been able to construct and hold together, by peaceful means, a country of considerable diversity, whose extent is surpassed only by your own. The human rights that are fixed in our constitution, and thus take precedence over any law, are to us more than the cornerstone of our system: they have become for us moral values. It is for this reason that the CSCE Human Rights Experts Meeting now taking place in Ottawa is so important to us.

An important aspect of our political system is our federalism. Our two languages, our enormous size and the varied backgrounds of Canadians have all combined to make us a highly decentralized federal state. Our provinces are powerful. Together with our municipalities they spend about twice as much of total Canadian tax revenues as the Federal Government. I am delighted that Premier Lougheed of my native province of Alberta has taken the initiative of inviting you to visit. I am sure you will find your stay there stimulating. It is a dynamic province with a strong, go-ahead government.

The contacts between the Russian Republic and the Province of Alberta are a good example of the broadening of contacts between our two countries that will become