

APPENDIX  
ADDRESS  
of  
HIS EXCELLENCY MIGUEL DE LA MADRID  
President of Mexico  
to  
Both Houses of Parliament  
in the  
House of Commons Chamber, Ottawa  
on  
Tuesday, May 8, 1984

The President was welcomed by the Right Honourable P. E. Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, and thanked by the Honourable Maurice Riel, Speaker of the Senate, and the Honourable Lloyd Francis, Speaker of the House of Commons.

**Hon. Lloyd Francis (Speaker of the House of Commons):** Order, please. The Right Hon. the Prime Minister of Canada.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Senor Presidente, Mr. Speaker of the Senate, Mr. Speaker of the House of Commons, Hon. Members of the Senate and of the House of Commons.

Canadians consider it a mark of special distinction for them, Sir, that you have chosen Canada for your first official visit North of the Rio Grande. We welcome you with open hearts to our country, as Mexicans have warmly welcomed Canadians. The generosity of your people is matched by the splendour of your country, as in the words of Octavio Paz:

*[Translation]*

Mexico rises between two seas as an enormous pyramid: its four sides are the four cardinal points, its steps are the climates of all its regions, its high plateau is the house of the sun and the constellations.

*[English]*

Mr. President, Canada is honoured by your presence in this Chamber. All Canadians are pleased to welcome you to Canada and to afford you an opportunity to speak directly to us at this Special Session of both Houses of our Parliament.

Early in your term of office, Sir, you earned our admiration and respect for the vigour and determination with which you strove to ease the crushing burden of indebtedness which Mexico, like so many other countries around the world, faced during the deep recession of recent times. Courageously you made difficult decisions which required heavy sacrifices by the Mexican people.

You have proved, as you said you would, that both the people and Government of Mexico are vigorous and mature, capable of responding to crisis and overcoming adversity. We admire such strong and determined political will. I am glad that Canada and Canadian financial institutions were able to play a part in assisting you.

Thus I welcome you as a neighbour and good friend. Mexico and Canada are no longer separated by time and space, living apart in their own labyrinths of solitude, to borrow again from the moving thoughts of Octavio Paz. In dramatic ways, tech-

nologies of transportation and communications make it possible now for nations everywhere to draw together. Government leaders in our two countries, and increasingly people in private walks of life, have shown very clearly their strong desire to draw together, to know each other, to co-operate in the arts, science, technology, energy and commerce.

Your visit today is contributing to this growing tradition of community and consultation for we have much in common and much to say to one another. When I became Prime Minister in 1968, the Government decided that Canada must systematically enlarge its relationships with Mexico and other key countries of Latin America. This we have done, with a reciprocal commitment from the Mexican Government. I have had the pleasure of making two official visits to Mexico and of welcoming two of your predecessors to Canada. These visits and the frequent meetings between our Ministers attest to our mutual determination to make our bilateral relationship successful.

*[Translation]*

Mr. President, the links between Canada and Mexico go back for many centuries. In fact, Samuel De Champlain visited a flourishing settlement in Mexico City, nine years before he founded Quebec City and fourteen years before travelling past the site of Ottawa, where we are today, during an expedition on the Ottawa River.

Canadians will recall with pride the constant collaboration with Mexico within United Nations agencies and other institutions during the creative post-war years. At the time, we worked together to prepare for a world order to be founded on a common vision of the need to reinforce gradually international law and to establish effective economic co-operation. In a word, we tried to provide a solid basis for peace.

Unfortunately, since then, man has seemed to take a perverse pleasure in developing military technology, while political institutions designed to safeguard peace crumbled.

As international tensions rose, Canada and Mexico, conscious of their responsibility and of their own resources, have always tried, each in its own way, to persuade the parties concerned to reconcile their differences. The perseverance we have shown in the past is needed even more urgently today, because the dangers that threaten us now are so much greater.

As you know, Mr. President, Canada has, out of a concern for deteriorating relationships between East and West, taken the initiative of trying to bring these essential relationships on