



Statements and Speeches

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NEW PERSPECTIVES OF CO-OPERATION BETWEEN CANADA AND ARGENTINA

Remarks by the Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs on the Occasion of the Official Dinner in Honour of Argentine Foreign Minister Caputo, Ottawa, September 30, 1985.

...I am convinced, Mr. Minister, that our two countries have much to learn from each other. Your visit occurs at a particularly opportune time. It enables us to specify the framework in which we would like to see the development of bilateral relations between our two countries. The political force that is accorded today to these relations consolidates the efforts already undertaken and opens new perspectives of co-operation.

An important element of this process has been personal contact between ministers and senior officials of both our governments. Indeed, last week, we were pleased to welcome to Canada, slightly in advance of yourself, your Energy Minister Storani, who was accompanied by an impressive delegation of senior Argentine officials and businessmen. A further significant step was the meeting of the Canada-Argentina Committee on Economic and Industrial Co-operation which was held in Buenos Aires, August 20-22. Although this was essentially a meeting of officials from both our countries who had come together for the first time to build a new dimension to the relationship, I am very pleased with the progress achieved and, particularly, with the new areas of co-operation which were identified. These cross a broad range of issues, from preparations for the forthcoming multilateral trade negotiations to the identification of specific trade projects. In this regard, Mr. Minister, I want to underscore the importance which the government of Canada attaches to these consultations and to express our gratitude for your personal interest and involvement which made a significant contribution to its process.

Our discussions today identified two particular issues of common concern and interest — the peace process in Central America and the difficult financial crisis currently confronting so many countries of the region.

As countries from the Western hemisphere, both Canada and Argentina have been extremely supportive of efforts to bring about a lasting peace in Central America. In this regard, I would like to congratulate Foreign Minister Caputo for his dynamic role in the very positive and timely step taken recently by Argentina, together with Brazil, Peru and Uruguay to establish a Contadora support group. Conscious of the many difficulties and frustrations which have beset the Contadora countries [Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico, Panama] in their search for a peaceful settlement in Central America, they have in this way reinforced the moral and practical authority of Contadora at a critical time.

As you know, Canada continues to regard the Contadora process as the most appropriate instrument which could create a framework within which reconciliation, and a return to stability in Central America may be possible. I use the word "appropriate" advisedly. Contadora is an appropriate mechanism because it is an indigenous Latin American initiative designed to address a problem in Latin America.
