

ago. The first official acts of the new Carter Administration would be focussed in a tangible way on the reassertion of the primacy of our friendship with Canada, and on our friendship with Mexico.

So it is not the response to the Quebec problem, But it is a reflection of a very basic recognition of what we are, where we are, and why it is in our mutual interest -- and consonant with our values and beliefs -- that we really emphasize our friendship.

MEMBER OF THE PRESS: Which Government suggested that this session this afternoon should be on a background basis?

I was just wondering if you could give us some guidance on what it is that either of you gentlemen said, where the national security would have been impaired had you been quoted by me.

MR. BRZEZINSKI: I could not care less if it was background, or it wasn't, frankly.

(Laughter)

Someone else is volunteering to explain it, and when somebody volunteers for a task like this, I gladly yield!

(Laughter)

MR. POWELL: You have all been wondering why I am here!

Well, the reason that it is on "background" is that,