

THRONE SPEECH

(The following is the foreign affairs portion of the Throne Speech delivered in the Canadian Parliament on November 5, 1984. It is presented as an editorial service of International Perspectives.)

Initiative will be taken to stimulate both domestic and foreign investment. My government is determined to regain Canada's reputation as a reliable and profitable place to do business.

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Renewed Canadian Internationalism

In Canada's past there is a luminous tradition of internationalism. Canadians have fought in two World Wars and in the United Nations action in Korea. Our armed forces have served in peacekeeping roles in distant lands. Our statesmen have been at the forefront in the founding of NATO and in the quest for arms control. Our country has successfully championed racial equality at critical moments in the life of the Commonwealth, and through private and public agencies contributed to international development.

It is the purpose of my government to renew this tradition of constructive Canadian internationalism.

Our relationship with the United States affects virtually every aspect of our national life. It is essential to our security and prosperity. It expresses values shared by the free peoples of our two nations. Beneath the myriad of issues to be discussed and conflicts to be resolved, beyond the hundreds of points of contact that take place daily between two governments and two economies, there are wellsprings of trust between two peoples.

My government has taken the initiative to restore a spirit of goodwill and true partnership between Canada and the United States. My government is pleased by the positive response it has received in both the government and private sectors of the United States.

There are many areas where the national interests or the national policies of the two countries diverge or compete. There are, as well, numerous and as of yet untapped possibilities for fruitful cooperation between our two countries. Restoring a climate of goodwill between our governments was an essential step towards the resolution of our conflicts and the realization of our opportunities. My government views this initiative as a confirmation of our national strength and maturity.

Vital as our relationship with the United States is, my Ministers are determined that Canadian internationalism will again be active and constructive in the wider world. The main objectives of my government are clear: to defend freedom and preserve peace; to prevent nuclear confrontation; to improve trading relations; to build a healthier world economy. For Canada, the way to these objectives lies in concerted action with other nations in every part of the world — allies, economic partners, competitors, friends and adversaries. There is surely none with whom a measure of common ground cannot be sought and found in the pursuit of these humane objectives.

My government is determined that Canada will again play its full part in the defence systems of NATO. Only in this way do we earn the right to full consultation and participation in the policies of that alliance. From this prudent

and responsible position, Canada will work unceasingly with other nations, in every available forum, to halt the spread of nuclear weapons and prevent their development and use. Patience and perseverance we will need, for in this endeavor even the smallest progress is worthy of the greatest effort.

Canada's opportunity to influence the course of world events lies primarily in sound multilateral institutions. This is as true of economics as it is of defence, of development, and of disarmament.

Canada cannot prosper without international trade. The dominant part played by trade with the United States is obvious, and my government is exploring with our neighbour new approaches to a better and mutually advantageous trading relationship. But geography has also endowed Canada with an oceanic link to the promising new horizons of the Pacific Rim and to our traditional trading partners in Western Europe. My government will pursue with vigour and imagination new opportunities in these areas.

Canada also has a vital stake in the elimination of barriers to trade, commerce and investment on a global basis. In this connection, there is an urgent need for a concerted attack on non-tariff barriers which have become increasingly insidious and more prevalent. Acknowledging that no country, including Canada, is blameless, my government declares its willingness to do its part in a renewed multilateral effort to remove these obstructions in the international marketplace.

Canada's record in official development assistance has on the whole been constructive. My government recognizes the continuing need for these programs, including support for the cost-effective and valuable humanitarian work done internationally by our voluntary and non-governmental organizations. But it is striking to observe how much hardship has occurred, how much debt burden has increased, how much economic activity has been held back in developing countries because of world recession, unstable markets and trade barriers. A successful attack on these problems will accelerate economic development and social progress in many of these countries. The alleviation of unconscionable human misery will result.

During this session, you will be asked to address this and other commitments and responsibilities of Canada in the world. A special parliamentary committee will conduct a full review of the main components and objectives of our international relations.

My government is convinced that Canada's defence forces urgently require a new definition of their role in keeping with present day conditions. The strategic context in which we defend our own territory and that of our allies has changed considerably since the early 1970s, when the government last carefully considered this matter. My Ministers are undertaking a comprehensive examination of these matters. The purpose is to clarify the mandate of our military and to give them the resources they need to do their job.