

Mr. Ambassador,

I would like to welcome you publicly to Canada and to wish you and your family a most satisfying and enjoyable stay in our country. I look forward to working with you in promoting our co-operative efforts and in resolving our problems for the mutual benefit of both our countries.

The Treaty on Extradition which has just been ratified marks the evolution of one of Canada's oldest treaty relationships with the United States. It will replace a series of arrangements which date back to 1842. For Canada, our extradition arrangements with the United States are far and away the most important we have with any country. In this, as in so many other aspects of our relations with the United States, our proximity generates contacts and problems on a scale dwarfing those which exist between Canada and other countries.

This new Treaty is very important to us. It is the product of careful negotiations over a decade. It will help the law enforcement authorities of our two countries to deal more effectively with some of the most dramatic and intractable problems faced by contemporary society on this continent - such problems as hi-jacking of aircraft, political kidnapping and drug offences. Under the new Treaty, it will also be easier to handle a wide range of extraditable offences which, while less likely to make the headlines, pose basic problems for the administration of justice in both countries.

The Treaty is one more example of the harmonious relations between Canada and the United States. The negotiations and other preparatory work which produced this treaty are typical of the common sense approach to so much of our ongoing bilateral relations which seldom comes to public attention. The practical approach to the resolution of bilateral questions which is made possible by similarities in our basic values and which is reflected in this Treaty has, of course, been a constant element in the development of the beneficial relations which exist between our two countries.

Because of the scope and complexity of our relations, we inevitably and frequently make decisions which affect the interests of the other. This underscores the necessity for careful management of our relations.

I welcome today's ceremony not only for the intrinsic value of the Treaty itself, but also for its symbolic value as a model of co-operation and mutual respect between our two countries. I find it particularly appropriate that so soon after your arrival we should have this opportunity to ratify together this further important link in Canada-United States relations.