The Canada/USA Defence Development and Defence Production Sharing Arrangements (DD/DPSA) are intended to ensure the maintenance of a long-term balance in reciprocal procurement of defence items and to utilize the industrial, scientific and technological resources of both countries in the interests of continental defence. During his visit to Ottawa President Reagan reaffirmed the importance the USA attaches to the Arrangements as the basis for cooperation in the defence economic field.

Fisheries and Maritime Boundaries

In January 1977, Canada extended its fisheries jurisdiction to 200 miles; the USA followed suit in March. The two claims overlapped. It then became necessary to establish a new bilateral framework for fisheries management and cooperation as well as to delimit the maritime boundaries in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Dixon Entrance in the Pacific, in the Beaufort Sea in the Arctic and off the east coast.

On August 1, 1977 the two governments appointed special negotiators to recommend a resolution of these issues. After eighteen months of negotiations, agreement was reached on fisheries and maritime boundary settlement procedures for the east coast. Treaties were signed in Washington, D.C. on March 29, 1979. Negotiations on the three other maritime boundaries have been in abeyance pending final determination of the east coast boundary.

One of the treaties signed in March 1979 provided for the submission of the east coast boundary dispute to adjudication by the International Court of Justice. It was directly linked to the fisheries treaty, which provided for cooperative management and for specific access and entitlements to particular east coast fish stocks of mutual concern. For two years, the U.S. Senate did not act on the treaties. This became the most serious of all Canada's bilateral issues with the USA. It was exacerbated by U.S. overfishing of stocks covered by the treaty during this period.

In March 1981, the U.S. Administration abandoned the fisheries treaty, separating it from the maritime boundary treaty and withdrawing it from the