

(C.W.B. April 9, 1969)

I can only add this: I only hope we can make you feel as much at home here in the United States as my wife and I, and so many hundreds of thousands of Americans, who have been welcomed in your country when we have visited there as private citizens.

Mr. Trudeau replied:

On behalf of my colleagues and myself, I want to thank you for your very cordial welcome.

I am very happy to be here. I feel very honoured that you should have extended your welcome to me, sir, so early in the days of your new Administration.

We have, as you say, very many ties which link us, ties of friendship and ties of common interest. And, especially, we have a common outlook on the world. We have the same values and we tend to face the issues in a common way.

It is because of this, Mr. President, that I am looking forward to our discussions, discussions of matters of mutual interest. And I am looking forward to listening to your views on world problems, on the information and the wisdom that you will want to impart upon me in your talks.

For these reasons, I am very glad to be here. Like so many Canadians, I always look forward to a visit to the United States with great pleasure. I have great pleasure in being here and I am looking forward to my stay with great anticipation.

Thank you very much, sir, for your welcome.

REPORT TO PARLIAMENT

After his return to Ottawa, the Prime Minister reported as follows to the House of Commons on March 26:

...If I were asked what has been the most significant result of the events of the last two days, I should say without hesitation that it is the fact that the groundwork has been laid for co-operation and consultations between our two Governments, which will allow for the holding of consultations at all levels, the official level, the ministerial one and that of the leaders of governments.

I should report as well the significance, in my view, of the fact that President Nixon set aside some time so early in his new Administration to receive the Prime Minister of Canada. No other country is as important to Canada as the United States; it is, therefore, reassuring to know that we have at this early date established the contacts and fortified the channels of communication so necessary to the effective conduct of our relations.

TOPICS DISCUSSED

A number of matters were discussed by the President and myself, by the Secretary of State for External Affairs and his counterpart Mr. Rogers, and by other officials. These discussions led to a confirmation of the Canadian-United States commitment to the continued expansion and freedom of world trade, to agreement with respect to our community of interest in the expansion of energy movements across our border, and a confirmation of the importance of an

early solution to the current wheat-marketing problems.

I wish to add that we were given a very full explanation of the reasons which led President Nixon to initiate the *Safeguard* Anti-Ballistic Missile programme and these I intend to convey to Cabinet at the earliest opportunity so that Canada's attitude may be determined.

It was further agreed that a meeting of the Joint Cabinet Committee on Trade and Economic Policy will be held on June 25, 26 and 27.

I do not wish to sit down without saying that I found in President Nixon a warm and understanding friend of Canada, a man with whom I shall be able to speak on behalf of Canadians in a frank yet genial fashion. For this I am very thankful. To further this good beginning I extended to the President and to Mrs. Nixon a warm invitation to visit Canada at their earliest convenience.



World Wide Photo
Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau and President Richard Nixon stroll in the grounds of the White House after two days of talks on March 24 and 25.