



Statements and Speeches

No. 84/18

NEW CLIMATE FOR INVESTMENT IN CANADA

Notes for a Speech by the Right Honourable Brian Mulroney, Prime Minister, to the Members of the Economic Club of New York, New York, December 10, 1984.

...I would like to stress at the outset that, as Prime Minister of Canada, I place the highest priority on retaining good relations between Canada and the United States.

President Kennedy once described the relationship between our two countries in this way: "Geography made us neighbours, history made us friends, economics has made us partners, and necessity has made us allies."

My government has just embarked on a new direction, one which I believe will instill in Canadians a new sense of national purpose; a direction which will restore Canada as a more dynamic force in the international community; a direction which will put our economy firmly on the road to economic renewal.

Tonight I want to talk to you about that new direction, and share with you the goals and hopes that we in Canada have set for ourselves.

It is my fundamental belief that the challenge to our two countries is to improve and strengthen the mutual benefits from our roles as friends and partners. To this end we must minimize friction, remove needless irritants, and maintain a healthy and vigorous relationship based on mutual understanding, constant and open communications, and a respect for our individual needs and interests.

In 1983 there was a national convention of my party, at which I sought and won the party leadership. During the campaign that preceded the convention, and in my speech to the convention, I pledged to re-establish that special relationship of trust with the US and with all our allies.

Three months ago, there was a general election, in which I repeatedly stated my intention as head of a new government to restore harmony and co-operation with the US. Last month, when Parliament reconvened, the Speech from the Throne underlined not only the importance of this relationship to Canada's security and prosperity; it pointed out that the source of our relationship lies in shared values and wellsprings of trust between two peoples. In the minds of some Canadians, such statements are tantamount to servility. Simple acts of friendship are ridiculed because they are instantly equated with a loss of sovereignty. By and large, Canadians are unimpressed and unmoved by these reactions.

The statements that the new government have made were overwhelmingly endorsed by the people of Canada who, with maturity and strength, have made it known they wish the Canadian-US relationship to be a privileged one, as befits true friends and trusted allies. Our purpose is noble, our course is
