

Reagan to 'galvanize' trade talks, PM says

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Mulroney had to prompt Reagan to answer some shouted questions.

Asked if the two were "close" on negotiations, the President hesitated.

"The negotiators are," whispered Mulroney.

"The negotiators are at that now," said the president, adding: "I made it plain in our meeting in Canada, that I am in full support of his free trade proposal."

The two leaders met in Ottawa April 5 and 6.

Mulroney told reporters later that Washington was impressed by the urgency of negotiations and he was confident the two sides would reach a successful conclusion.

4 months left

He emphasized he was not negotiating with the President — Canadian free trade negotiator Simon Reisman and his American counterpart, Peter Murphy, will be talking again in Ottawa next week.

There is less than four months left before a deadline to settle on a free trade deal. Congress has set a deadline of Oct. 1 for negotiators to present a draft agreement for ratification.

Mulroney said protectionism is the "bane of our existence" and added: "You saw what happened to Japan."

The United States recently slapped a higher tariff on Japanese microchips.

Mulroney said he would not sign a free trade deal unless it was fair to Canada.

The economic summit here attended by the leaders of seven

Western industrial democracies ended Wednesday by calling for greater world efforts to fight AIDS — stressing that the battle should be done "in accordance with the principles of human rights."

Meanwhile, in Venice, officials yesterday ordered checks into possible damage to the city's monuments as a result of the

seven-nation summit, Reuters News Agency reports.

Officials said vibration from police helicopters may have dislodged marble from the Doges' Palace.

Palace Superintendent Umberto Franzoi said he had collected shards that had fallen from the pink and white marble facade of the building, seat of Venetian lead-

ers when this majestic lagoon city was a powerful maritime republic.

"We suspect the damage was caused by the vibrations produced by police helicopters when they flew low over the area of St. Mark's Square," Franzoi told reporters.

He said he was sending the pieces away for analysis.

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