

PRINT

CANADA-U.S. RELATIONS

GOVERNMENT'S NEW ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE U.S.

BACKGROUNDERS

Globe and Mail Sept. 27/84
(William Johnson-Washington)

Follow interpretive story sees resurfacing of "special ties" between Canada and U.S.

Globe and Mail Sept. 24/84
(William Johnson)

Intro to meeting between Mulroney and Reagan with Johnston noting that the Canadian Prime Minister made a great impression on senior U.S. officials and on President Reagan when he was in Washington in June as Opposition Leader. Richard Burt, assistant secretary of state for European and Canadian affairs, suggested the two countries were moving toward recreating the 'special relationship' between the two countries. Johnson reviewed the possibilities for sectoral or free trade pacts and noted that in the revised U.S. system, power was diffused. As a result, international trade policy as made by Congress rather than the President, tended to be made incidentally -- as byproduct of domestic problems and a search for domestic solutions.

Globe and Mail Sept. 25/84
(by Lawrence Martin)

Martin reviewed the attitude of Canadian prime ministers to U.S. presidents in the past two decades and concluded that the Canadian leaders tended to take a softer line on East-West disputes than their U.S. counterparts. John Diefenbaker, Lester Pearson and Pierre Trudeau faced U.S. displeasure by speaking out about U.S. foreign policy in some instances. Any cosiness toward Mr. Reagan or perceived cosiness could damage the image of Mr. Mulroney.

Toronto Star Sept. 29/84
(by Val Sears - Ottawa bureau)

Sears suggested in his rather droll style that Prime Minister Mulroney was ill at ease during his Washington visit. He quoted the pledges to strengthening the special relationship, but cited those who warned of the pitfalls. Senator Michael Pitfield said there were an increasing number of differences between the two countries and 90 per cent of those had nothing to do with "any personal chemistry." Pitfield worried about the Mulroney government, in effect, putting Canada up for sale. Sears said one of the first tests would be in the energy field where three U.S. oil companies were seeking permission to scoop up Canadian subsidiaries. Sears noted the preponderance of U.S. military and national security advisers at the Canada-U.S. discussions and wondered whether President Reagan might be more interested in stiffening his "spine of steel" with a little more NATO help from Canada than he was in talking disarmament.