

STATEMENT TO THE PRESS BY PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU

AT THE END OF THE VISIT OF

PRESIDENT RONALD WILSON REAGAN AND MRS. REAGAN,

MARCH 11, 1981

Ladies and gentlemen of the press, the point has been made many times that we are happy to have received President Reagan and his ministers and officials.

We want to report briefly this morning on the conversations and discussions which took place between us. I would merely preface them by saying that at the beginning of a new administration, we were surprised and delighted that so much ground could be covered in such a positive way.

There is no subject and no grievance, if I could use the word, which the United States was not prepared to discuss and indicate a will to settle.

We discussed yesterday morning mainly the area of international affairs, and we had a very wide-ranging 'tour d'horizon'. Nous avons parlé de l'Afghanistan, de la Pologne, du Proche-Orient. We talked a fair amount of the Caribbean and Central America, and on El Salvador in particular there was agreement, as I could sense it, that the solution there should be a political solution and that we would work in whatever way we could to ensure that the moderates were those who took over and not the extremists of the right or of the left.

We, as you know, reached an agreement on NORAD which will be signed imminently. We have reached an agreement on social security also; much of the work in these two areas had been done before we even sat down to talk because you realize, as we do, that every day of the week there are contacts between officials of both governments on a multitude of subjects, and what we concentrated on in our brief meetings was mainly in the area of disagreement or a need to clarify our respective positions. And I would say that on the two main areas of bilateral concern, we were very pleased with the ultimate response of the President of the United States.

It began, of course, with an expression of our deep disappointment at the fact that the fisheries treaty had been withdrawn from the United States from ratification because from the outset we had argued, when these discussions began several years ago, that linkage between the boundaries settlement on the fisheries was not only necessary but