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CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES – AN ASSOCIATION WITHOUT PARALLEL

Remarks by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson, to the Rotary Club of Windsor (Ontario), November 14, 1977.

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The world we live in is a challenging place, and I want to talk about some of these challenges today and their effect on Canada/U.S.A. relations.

Never in the history of our two countries have we faced more difficult and complex problems – yet relations between Canada and the United States have seldom been better than they are to-day. To be sure, there are tensions and still-unresolved issues of great importance, but there is no bitterness, no sense of confrontation. Rather, there is a strong and mutually-shared commitment to consultation and co-operation, and the results are obvious.

The northern pipeline treaty, involving the biggest project of its kind in world history, was negotiated in surprisingly short order, despite dire predictions to the contrary. Several key issues involving the St. Lawrence Seaway were settled without recourse to formal legal proceedings. The contentious Garrison Diversion is to be modified to allay Canada's legitimate concerns and the International Joint Commission has again demonstrated its worth in dealing with this and other environmental problems, some in the Detroit-Windsor area.

Only a few months have passed since our two countries declared the 200-mile off-shore limit, but already Canada and the United States have accepted the concept of joint management of fish-stocks and our negotiators are making good progress towards a permanent boundary settlement. All of these developments and many more have occurred during 1977 – a very good record for two countries whose governments and people are involved in literally thousands of transactions every day.

A Windsor-Detroit audience does not need detailed reminders of the extent of our interdependence, but a few statistics are in order. Canada and the United States do more business together than any other two countries on earth. American exports to Canada equal those to all of the European Economic Community and are two-and-a-half times U.S. exports to Japan. Canadian cross-border sales dwarf our exports to the rest of the world, with Canadian auto sales alone worth one-and-a-half times everything we send to the EEC.

And raw statistics tell only part of the story. Because of the intricate economic linkages, an improvement in the Canadian economy benefits the United States far more than a comparable rise in any other country or region; the reverse is equally true – in spades. It is not by choice only that we co-operate to fight today's major economic
