

[English]

As we are linked in commerce and trade, so are we linked in the defence of our continent through NORAD, and in the defence of the Atlantic Alliance through NATO. As we are partners in progress, so are we partners in defending our democratic way of life.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: Canada is not a neutral nation. We are not, and never have been, mere spectators in the struggle between freedom and tyranny.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: Canada's credentials have been richly earned both in the defence of freedom and in the pursuit of peace.

Geographically situated between the two superpowers, Canada lives in the shadow of nuclear armaments.

[Translation]

Our people, deeply concerned about the arms race, are now encouraged by recent prospects for arms reduction. If the United States and the Soviet Union can conclude an agreement on short and medium range missiles, other arms reductions accords can follow.

A new day can begin. As President Eisenhower said in this House: "Beyond the shadow of the nuclear cloud, the horizon is bright with promise." Regrettably, after three decades that promise remains unfulfilled.

[English]

But with strength, solidarity and resolve, that promise may yet be secured.

It is the promise of a world in which a liberalized trading system works for the benefit of the developing, no less than the developed nations.

It is the promise of a world free of international terrorism, which our two Governments remain firmly resolved to combat.

It is the promise of a world free from the evil of apartheid, because the majority in South Africa cannot and must not remain in political and economic bondage.

It is the promise of a world where children learn tolerance and lead lives that exemplify it.

[Translation]

Those are but a few of our mutual obligations to a larger world, a world which looks to our two countries as beacons of liberty, of prosperity and generosity of spirit.

[English]

Mr. President, Sir Winston Churchill described the relationships between our nations as "an example for every country and a pattern for the future of the world". In testimony to that, this unique and enduring relationship has been celebrated

recently by a joint resolution of the American Congress and the Parliament of Canada which proclaims July 2 and 3, the two days between our respective national days, as the "Canada-United States days of peace and friendship".

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: Our respective legislators have served their constituents well.

Six years ago, on your first visit to this Chamber, Prime Minister Trudeau said: "I wish you well in your task and comfort in your burden. May part of that comfort come from the assurance of Canada's abiding friendship for your country and your people".

Mr. President, I make mine the words of Prime Minister Trudeau. As we once again welcome you and Mrs. Reagan in our midst, you will know that that sentiment remains indeed unchallenged and unchanged in this House, in this Parliament, and in this country.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: May I say to you, Mr. President, and to you, Mrs. Reagan, that in Canada you are among friends.

Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Ronald W. Reagan (President of the United States): Mr. Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker of the Senate, Mr. Speaker of the House of Commons, honourable Senators, Members of the House of Commons, distinguished members of the diplomatic corps, ladies and gentlemen:

It is a great honour to speak to you today. As you know, this is my third official visit to Canada. My last two were the first foreign trips I had taken after each election. But our constitutional prohibitions being what they are, I thought it was not wise to wait for another election before visiting you again.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Reagan: I also wanted to time this trip after March so people would not think that these state visits are just an excuse for Prime Minister Mulroney and me to celebrate St. Patrick's Day together.

On each of these occasions I have been struck by how much our two nations have in common. Despite our many important differences, you see the similarities of our national characters in, among other things, the sports we share; hockey, baseball, football—with some modifications—and that fourth sport which seems to be as popular on both sides of the 49th parallel, giving a hard time to political leaders of Irish descent.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Reagan: It is truly an honour to have a second opportunity to address this august body, this great democratic legislature that has been witness to and shaper of so much of