

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: But equally, Mrs. Thatcher was the first western leader to recognize the possibilities of change and reform in the Soviet Union. It was she, even before the change of course in the Soviet Union, who pointed out that Mr. Gorbachev was "a man we can do business with".

Between Canada and the United Kingdom there is, of course, a special relationship. The ties that bind us stretch across an ocean and reach across the generations.

The United Kingdom is now our third largest trading partner, with two-way trade in excess of \$7 billion last year. Canadian exports to the U.K. rose by 5 per cent last year to \$2.8 billion, representing nearly one-third of all of our exports to the European Community. Canada, with less than 1 per cent of the world's population, accounts for nearly 5 per cent of the world's trade.

[Translation]

Not surprisingly then, we are ardent proponents of trade liberalization.

As you know, Prime Minister, we have concluded a free trade agreement between Canada and the United States, the world's two largest trading partners, which we believe will give powerful impetus to the multilateral talks now underway in Geneva.

[English]

We are working very hard, and Mrs. Thatcher is providing great leadership, for reform in the area of agricultural subsidies. I am pleased with the clear signal of will which emerges from our deliberations in Toronto on this vital topic.

Of course, we maintain our familial and our very affectionate ties with Britain through the Commonwealth, and we strengthen them through the other multilateral institutions to which we bring a common heritage and in which we make common cause.

Prime Minister, we admire you as one of the world's most inspiring leaders. Your career has been one of confronting great challenge and difficulty and emerging with skill and resolve on a new plateau of accomplishment. You have stood firmly for freedom. You have fought hard for democracy. You have earned our genuine respect.

Colleagues, *cher amis*, I present to you a true friend of Canada, The Prime Minister of Great Britain, The Right Hon. Margaret Thatcher.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Right Hon. Margaret Thatcher (Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Great Britain and Northern Ireland): Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, Prime Minister, Hon. Members of the Senate, Members of the House of Commons:

[Translation]

First of all I would like to thank you for the great privilege and honour of being invited to speak before you a second time. Longevity has its advantages . . .

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Right Hon. Margaret Thatcher: I also want to take this opportunity to thank you and the Canadian people for the truly exceptional welcome extended to me and to the many foreign visitors who have come to your country in the past twelve months.

[English]

It has indeed been an extraordinary year in which world leaders, sportsmen, businessmen, and many others have flocked to Canada—the Francophone Summit, the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, the Economic Summit, and the Winter Olympics. The British team may not have returned with any gold medals, but I think we can claim to have been represented by the most famous competitor.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs. Thatcher: All this is a tribute to Canada's success and to the high regard in which your country is held world-wide and most especially within the Commonwealth.

A Canadian Prime Minister at the turn of the century predicted that "the 20th century would be the century of Canada". The last 12 months have certainly shown his prophecy to be true.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs. Thatcher: I should like to pay a particular tribute to the skilful and creative chairmanship of those meetings by your Prime Minister, Brian Mulroney, most recently at the highly successful Economic Summit. Few have the privilege of feeling that they have moved the world's fortunes a step forward. He has done so and deserves our thanks and congratulations.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs. Thatcher: Mr. Speaker, our two countries are metaphorically, and often literally, members of the same family. Like a family, we have experiences in common that go back to our beginnings. A Canadian rode at Balaclava in the charge of the Light Brigade. Canadian boatmen ferried British soldiers down the Nile in their attempt to rescue General Gordon at Khartoum a century ago. It was an engineer from Québec, Sir Percy Girouard, who built the railway that was so valuable in opening up the Sudan.

Above all, we remember together our war dead by wearing poppies every November because a Canadian soldier, Major John McCrae, wrote the poem *In Flanders Fields* in the early morning of the 3rd of May, 1915, while the first battle of Ypres was raging.