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Canadian and US foreign ministers meet in Toronto

Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark said pragmatism would replace ideology and confrontation in Canada's dealings with the United States, after his first meeting in Canada with US Secretary of State George Shultz, on October 15. Mr. Shultz was in Toronto for two days of meetings, the latest in a series of four-times-a-year meetings between Canada's external affairs minister and the US secretary of state.

Mr. Clark said the new Conservative government had a mandate to improve relations with its largest trading partner and that Canada should rebuild its reputation as a pragmatic country. He singled out the National Energy Program and the Foreign Investment Review Agency — both of which the Conservatives have promised to revise — and said he was stressing the government's intentions to bring a new tone to Canada-US relations.

Mr. Shultz described Canada-US relations as a top priority and invited Mr. Clark to call him any time problems arose, adding that he would do the same.

The meetings focused on a variety of multi-lateral topics. In response to Mr. Clark's concern about growing protectionism, Mr. Shultz described the annual economic summits of

Western industrialized nations as an important affirmation of open trade.

Mr. Clark said Canada was committed to liberalizing trade with the United States and other countries and talked of the need to increase domestic and foreign investment here. He also expressed concern about Canada's deficit.

In their three meetings on October 16, Mr. Clark and Mr. Shultz discussed global political and bilateral issues. They reviewed Central America, the Middle East and arms control negotiations between East and West.

The two ministers also discussed acid rain and agreed that Environment Minister Suzanne Blais-Grenier and the American Environment Protection Agency head William Ruckelshaus would meet regularly to discuss acid rain and that the meetings should be attended by scientists from both countries. Details of the frequency of the talks, as well as the date and place of the first meeting were not established.

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney plans to have meetings scheduled on a regular basis between key members of the Canadian and US cabinets. He also plans to meet the president at least once a year.



Joe Clark and wife Maureen (left) with George Shultz and wife Helena at a reception in Toronto.



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