

try. We know that distortions in the world economy, which are also affecting Mexico and Canada, have slowed the pace of our exchange activities. Nevertheless, experience in recent years has shown the numerous opportunities for co-operation in such diverse areas as agriculture, industry, energy, communications, fishing and transportation.

Economic and political relations between our two countries are not a matter of momentary circumstance, but of interests of a much vaster scope: similarity of political concepts and values, complementary economies and a common willingness to foster dialogue and co-operation on the basis of respect, trust, friendship and mutual benefit. We Mexicans and Canadians want to be increasingly closer friends.

Ladies and Gentlemen, under the threat of grave nuclear escalation, the increasingly acute ideological confrontation and the economic crisis that overshadows the world's atmosphere, there is a ray of light for the peoples of the American continent. Peace, respect for law, justice and co-operation must and will take their proper place as indispensable ideals of our community of countries. Those values are not negotiable, nor can they be fragmented without threatening the stability of all and violating the humanistic sentiment that permeated the enterprise of civilizing the New World.

It is my hope that through the untiring efforts of people and government, of organizations and individuals, future generations on our continent may find a safe, harmonious and just place in which to live together and grow. I trust that Canada and Mexico will be able to meet the challenge of making to-day's dream, a reality.

Thank you very much.

[Translation]

Hon. Maurice Riel (Speaker of the Senate): Mr. Speaker of the House of Commons, Mr. President of Mexico, Mr. Prime Minister of Canada, fellow parliamentarians.

Today we have had the great privilege of listening to an eminent statesman in the person of the President of Mexico. It is a great honour for me, as Speaker of the Senate and on behalf of my fellow senators, to thank the President for his wise words and to salute him as the leader of a country with which we maintain numerous cultural ties and ties of friendship, in addition to important trade relations.

Mr. President, you are also particularly welcome as the leader of a nation with which we share the larger part of the North American continent.

[English]

We in Canada have been impressed by the skill and the strength with which you, Mr. President, accepted the challenge of these difficult circumstances and have put your nation on the long and arduous path to recovery. In this, Mexico has given us all a praiseworthy example of confidence in the future.

A concern for the future has been evident too, Mr. President, in your commitment to the peace and well-being of the

peoples of your region. We in this Parliament, indeed in this country, have followed the efforts of the Contadora Group with an intense interest and a profoundly-felt hope for their success. We realize that, as never before, we are all, literally and figuratively, "a piece of the continent, a part of the main". We ask you today to take back to your colleagues in Venezuela, Panama and Colombia our earnest wishes for the realization of your vision of a Central America in which conditions will permit its peoples to progress towards peace, stability and good neighbourliness.

[Translation]

Mr. President, we are all delighted to have you and your ministers visit Canada. Frequent meetings at the highest level, among heads of State, ensure an abiding respect for the best interests of all concerned by consolidating bilateral ties between countries. Therefore, we earnestly hope that the ties that exist between Canada and Mexico will continue to grow for the greater good of both our countries.

Finally, I wish to thank you again, Mr. President, not only for your address, not only for having come to Canada, but also for your efforts to restore peace in our hemisphere. Rest assured that Canadians, like all people of good will, are grateful to you for this and urge you to continue. In this as in all other things, Mr. President, we wish you the best of luck!

[English]

Hon. Lloyd Francis (Speaker of the House of Commons): Mr. President of Mexico, Mr. Prime Minister, Members of the Senate and the House of Commons.

It is a great honour for me, on behalf of Members of our Houses of Parliament and guests assembled, to express our appreciation of the Address we have heard from the President of Mexico. We welcome him to Canada as the leader of a friendly nation which shares Canada's commitment to peace and development in the Americas.

[Translation]

Continuing with the warm friendship developed between our two countries, we have the honour of welcoming our distinguished visitor to our capital.

[English]

Canada and Mexico have enjoyed diplomatic relations for 40 years. Our two nations are linked by many important treaties and agreements in such areas of common interest as energy, culture, industry and agriculture. The past several years in particular have witnessed a very welcome increase in the number and level of official contacts between our Governments.

[Translation]

In 1983, a delegation of Canadian parliamentarians visited Mexico to consolidate our friendship, increase our knowledge of each other's country and explore further avenues for co-operation between our two countries. All delegates came back delighted with their visit.