

Let me take a moment, in conclusion, to express our satisfaction of the fact that progress is being made in another essential dimension of our relations - our respect for the environment. We have, in Canada and the United States, a lot of environment, and for most of our national lives we have assumed that our air and our lakes and our wildlife were a constant. We know better now. The Rocky Mountains, in my home province of Alberta, are scarred by early mining operations that affected the water flow, that led to drought and crop loss in our green lands. Lakes in the beautiful Muskokas of Ontario are dying gradually, victims of acid rain. In the far north, where the ecology is often fragile, the traditional foraging grounds of the caribou and the livelihood of the natives who hunt them are threatened by various proposals for development.

Years ago, our two countries established the International Joint Commission to deal with problems relating to transboundary water flows, and that has worked remarkably well. Since 1979, there has been growing concern about the transboundary effects of acid rain. The problem was seen with different urgency on different sides of the border, and a former Canadian Government broke off discussions in frustration. Prime Minister Mulroney renewed those talks on acid rain with President Reagan. The first tangible result was a joint report by two envoys, Drew Lewis and Bill Davis, which spelled out how we can start the joint reduction of acid rain emission. In Canada, we have been acting to reduce by 50 percent our 1980 acid rain emissions levels by the year 1994. In Washington, on Wednesday, the President announced specific new measures, including seeking 2.5 billion dollars of new funding, to fight the emissions in your country. Mr. Mulroney called the President's announcement "welcome news for Canada" - and it is an indication that, at the leaders level, there is an indication that, at the leaders level, there is a determination to work together constructively across the wide range of issues - economic, environmental, our common defence of freedom - which make the relationship between Canada and the United States the most important bilateral relationship in the world - bar none.