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OVERNIGHT CANADA/OU JOUR AU LENDEMAIN

Reagan will 'galvanize' trade talks PM says

By Val Sears Toronto Star

VENICE — President Ronald Reagan has promised to "galvanize" the United States Congress into acting on free trade, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney said yesterday.

"That is the commitment I received from the president," Mulroney said after a post-summit meeting in the garden of Reagan's hotel.

Mulroney arrived in Ottawa last night after the three-day summit ended but did not speak to reporters.

The Prime Minister said in Venice the separation of powers between the U.S. administration and Congress sometimes makes negotiations more difficult for Americans than Canadians.

American demand

He said that was why he continued to press Reagan to keep pushing Congress toward achieving a free-trade pact between their two countries.

"It is important that we keep reminding them so as to galvanize that congressional and administration support, which is what we are doing today, and that was the commitment I received from the President."

The 40-minute meeting, between Mulroney and his advisers and Reagan and his staff, took place in the sunny garden of the Cipriani Hotel on a Venetian island.

There was some confusion about who had requested the meeting but the two leaders spent the entire time talking about free trade.

Mulroney said, among other things, they had discussed the American demand for unfettered investment in Canada.

"But there was no trade-off discussed," the Prime Minister said.

At a photo opportunity later,

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