

private discussions and negotiations concerning the details of a statement should precede any public announcement. Making Canada's advice to the U.S. public was considered important to the interest of keeping Canadians and Americans informed about communications between their governments, and as a way of reinforcing Canada's independence from the U.S. If this appears to fly in the face of the participants' general belief that a closer, more co-operative relationship is a positive thing, it must be borne in mind that these people did not sense that there had been extensive discord previously. Because of this perception, they did not seem to feel that Canada needs to take special measures to redemonstrate its loyalty in order to enhance bilateral relations.

The participants appeared to be divided on whether Prime Minister Mulroney can have a real influence on the President. Some felt that, because Prime Minister Mulroney and President Reagan do get along well, President Reagan will be inclined to listen to Prime Minister Mulroney; however, it was pointed out that President Reagan is just as likely to listen to and be influenced by leaders of other countries, e.g., Thatcher. Other participants believed that Canada's influence on the U.S. is probably stronger than that of other countries because of our ties, (e.g., economic) with the U.S.; however, President Reagan will "only listen to what he wants to listen to."