



Statements and Speeches

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CUBA-CANADA: A RELATION BASED ON KNOWLEDGE AND CO-OPERATION

Remarks by the Right Honourable Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, Cienfuegos, January 28, 1976.

Your Excellency the Prime Minister, Guests, Friends: It is my privilege, Mr. Prime Minister, to bring to you and the people of Cuba the greetings and good wishes of the Government and people of Canada. I am grateful to you for the hospitality your Government has extended to me and to my wife, and to the members of my party on this garden island. I appreciate your kind initiative in bringing us to Cienfuegos, a city with a long tradition and a wonderful bay. And I am especially grateful for the opportunity your invitation has provided to exchange views with you on relations between our two countries, on the western hemisphere in which we both reside, and on the broader world on which we all depend.

This moment in history is particularly appropriate for such conversations. It is so because I sense that the peoples of the world have accepted finally [the fact] that they live in an era of change. For close to 30 years, in a more profound sense than ever before, they have observed change, reacted to change, and engaged in change. Now, in 1976, the conception of change is firmly rooted as one of the few constant factors in an otherwise bewildering world. People everywhere have no alternative but to adjust to change. Yet change offers more than obligation -- it provides, as well, opportunity for benefit. It is the broad understanding that such opportunity exists that makes 1976 a promising year.

For Cuba this year holds forth many changes. You will be voting on a new constitution and electing representatives to a national and to local assemblies; you will be undertaking a new phase of economic development; you will be changing even the political-administrative divisions within the country. I wish you well in all these endeavours. I offer special congratulations to Cienfuegos: yesterday a village; today a city; tomorrow a province!

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It is an exciting time to be alive. There is immense opportunity for advantage through the wise application of new knowledge and new technology. And there is, as well, immense danger if wisdom is absent, because unwise policies in this nuclear age can lead to the destruction of the entire human race. Perhaps the single criterion
