

areas in support of my claim that relations with the United States are in very good order at the present time.

There is, for example, the fact that we were able to conclude the Northern Pipeline Treaty, which I think by any assessment or measurement indicates a high level of co-operation between the two countries. I am also happy to say to the House that, despite early forecasts of failure, negotiations with regard to the maritime boundaries — probably one of the more complex issues to arise between us in the last 25 or 30 years — are now moving along very satisfactorily. Certain matters have now been established in principle with regard to joint management of fish-stocks and the like, and the two negotiators felt sufficiently satisfied with the progress they were making to request from their governments an additional month, until 31, 1978, in which they are reasonably confident they can conclude the negotiations satisfactorily.

Of course, as I said a moment ago with regard to the OPEC meetings, one can never be certain on these matters until the ink is dry on the agreements. Nevertheless we have come a very long way since January of this year, when there was very little to assure us that there could be this kind of agreement without, at the very least, a third-party intervention.

The other point with regard to the United States that demonstrates the way in which we have been able to work together is the announcement made over the weekend by my colleague, the Minister of Transport, with regard to the agreement arrived at on phasing-in the St. Lawrence Seaway toll increases. Once again, here was a case where each country accommodated the other in a manner that I believe met the objectives of both, and it was not necessary, in this case either, to fall back upon the legal mechanisms and provisions in the treaty for renegotiation and the like.

Therefore, while we shall always have certain difficulties and tensions with the United States, I think it is important for us to state at this time that the United States continues to be not only our best customer, by a very wide margin, but also our closest friend and, in the long run, the country with which we find we can co-operate — for a whole range of logical reasons — most successfully and most beneficially, in terms not only of economic matters, to which I referred a few moments ago, but also of advancing efforts towards a more permanent peace in the world. On the vast majority of occasions we find ourselves, in this respect, with no difference of view from the United States as to goals, even though on occasion our techniques may differ somewhat from theirs.

Canada and the EEC

In this overview of our relations with various countries in the world, I should like to turn now to the European Economic Community and in the process to say a word about the nuclear negotiations that have been going on for a very long time now, but, I am happy to report, appear to be at least within reach of being settled satisfactorily for all sides.

Before I deal with the nuclear question, however, let me just say a word about our relations with the Community in general. It is just about a year ago today that I,