

# Canada Weekly

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## Agreement predominates at Canada-US leaders summit

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and US President Ronald Reagan met in Quebec City March 17-18 in what some consider the most friendly and productive leaders' summit in Canada-United States history.

The president and Nancy Reagan were greeted in Quebec City on March 17, by the prime minister and Mila Mulroney as well as Quebec Premier René Lévesque.

In his welcoming remarks, the prime minister said "we are an independent nation which sees no contradiction in guaranteeing our sovereignty while treating our friends fairly". He added that citizens in both countries expect the leaders to begin solving a number of problems including protection of the environment.

The president said: "We are more than neighbours or friends or allies. We are kin who together have built the most productive relationship between any two countries in the world today. ... There is no more important relationship for the United States today."

Items scheduled for discussion by the two leaders included acid rain, trade, defence and arms control. They also formally signed a number of agreements that had been concluded earlier.

The two-day summit, represented the United States president's first official visit outside the United States since his election for a second term. In addition to private talks, Mr. and Mrs. Mulroney and Mr. and Mrs. Reagan attended a St. Patrick's Day gala performance at *Le Grand Theatre* where they enjoyed a program of ballet,

folk singing, comedy, and a performance by Maureen Forrester.

### Acid rain envoys

In a joint statement following the first private session between the leaders, two special envoys, former Ontario Premier William Davis and former US Transportation Secretary Drew Lewis, were appointed to seek "a common solution" to the acid rain problem. Their task, as outlined in the communiqué, is to "pursue consultation" on laws that relate to acid rain pollutants, "enhance co-operation" in research efforts, "pursue means to increase exchange" of scientific information, and "identify efforts" to improve the Canadian and US environments.

With annual emissions of sulphur dioxide in the United States at 26 million tonnes, compared with 4.6 million tonnes in Canada, acid rain was a major priority for the summit for Cana-

dians. Mr. Mulroney and Mr. Reagan said the appointees would make every effort to have a joint Canadian-US program to combat acid rain ready before their next summit meeting.

### Trade issues

Concerning trade, the two leaders issued a declaration that covered a range of commitments, all directed at stopping protectionism, reducing trade barriers and facilitating cross-border trade in goods and services.

They also announced that Ambassador William Brock, the United States trade representative, and Canada's Minister for International Trade James Kelleher have



The prime minister (left) and the president stroll along the Citadel ramparts in Quebec City.

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