



# Statements and Speeches

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## A REUNION OF FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS

A Toast by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson, at a Dinner in Honour of United States Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, Ottawa, November 21, 1978.

Honourable Secretary of State, honoured guests from the United States and Canada, it is my great honour this evening to welcome to Ottawa, and to Canada, my very good friend Cyrus Vance. Cy Vance is a colleague in international affairs with whom it has been a pleasure and a privilege to work in a number of international forums over the past two years.

This is a very special occasion for us in Canada. It is less a state occasion than a reunion of friends and neighbours. Since I became Secretary of State for External Affairs two years ago, I have been impressed by the unique character of relations between Canada and the United States. We are two young nations that grew up in a new world, whose populations are made up of people from a multitude of nations and civilizations from different parts of the world. We speak a common idiom in North America — even though in Canada we do it in two languages — and understand each other perhaps better than any other two comparable nations in the world. This understanding and willingness to see the other's point of view has enabled us to achieve some exemplary forms of co-operation.

We welcome tonight a friend, and a representative of a vigorous, and indeed courageous, Administration. You and President Carter have brought renewed elements of humanity and personal concern to U.S. foreign policy. Your contribution to President Carter's magnificent achievement in bringing Israel and Egypt together again and rekindling their resolve to find peace in the Middle East is well known. Only a dedicated Administration in the United States could have established this framework. There may still be some distance to go before that part of the world knows the full blessings of peace, but Canada is also committed to doing its part in keeping both parties negotiating and ensuring the necessary international atmosphere for a lasting peace.

On bilateral matters, never in the history of our two countries have we faced more difficult and complex problems; yet relations between Canada and the United States have seldom been better than they are today. To be sure, there are tensions and still unresolved issues of great importance, but there is no bitterness, no sense of confrontation. Rather there is a strong and mutually-shared commitment to consultation and co-operation, and the results are obvious. The record of our specific achievements speaks for itself.

This audience does not need detailed reminders of the extent of our interdependence, but a few statistics are in order. Canada and the United States do more business together than any other two countries on earth. American exports to Canada equal

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