

- On acid rain, the President agreed to consider an accord; an initiative hitherto rejected. In his address before Parliament, he announced that he had agreed to consider the Canadian proposal for a bilateral accord on acid rain, building on the tradition of agreements to control shared international waters.
- On trade, the President reaffirmed his support and commitment to a Free Trade Agreement and undertook to promote the accord in Congress.
- On Arctic sovereignty, the visit served to demonstrate to the President the importance of this issue for Canadians, and to emphasize the need to manage this question in a manner consistent with Canadian sovereignty so that mutually-beneficial cooperation in the Arctic could take place.
- In the area of defence relations, the visit was successful in confirming to the United States that Canada was not faltering in its support for the defence of Europe and in its commitment to upgrade its military forces.

In addition, the President's visit, as one in a series of high level meetings that address international issues, was useful in promoting the support of President Reagan for certain Canadian positions. This was particularly true with issues such as international agricultural trade reform and the need to increase international pressure on South Africa to change its apartheid policies.

The 1988 Summit

The period between the Ottawa Summit and the forthcoming Washington Summit has been dominated by the negotiations that led to the initialling on October 3, 1987 -- after 18 months of negotiations -- of the "Elements of the (Free Trade) Agreement." The legal text which followed was tabled in Canada on December 11, 1987 and signed on January 2, 1988 by the two leaders - as required by the "Fast Track Authority" agreed to by the US Senate in April 1986.

Interest in the Agreement and its implications has been intense in Canada throughout this period; it has increased significantly in the USA since congressional hearings began on February 5, 1988. Despite the vocal opposition of some special interest groups, it is clear that a majority of Canadians and Americans favour a free trade agreement. Both governments will