



Statements and Speeches

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CANADA'S OBLIGATIONS AS A NUCLEAR POWER

Remarks by Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau to the Canadian Nuclear Association, Ottawa, June 17, 1975.

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The accomplishments of this country in coming to grips over the years with distance and space and climate are great by any standard. The achievements of Canadian science and technology in the fields of transportation and communication and energy are unquestionably great. In many of these areas every other country in the world looks to us as the setter of standards, as the leader.

In largest measure, these accomplishments are the product of a partnership between government and private enterprise of a type unknown in many other countries. I'm proud of the system and exceedingly proud of some of the results. We have long since frankly acknowledged in Canada that our country is so large, our challenges so many, and our population so small that we have no option but to pool our resources, first for survival in a hostile climate, then for the attainment of difficult goals.

It's not easy -- this co-operative approach. Not easy from the point of view of industry, not easy from the point of view of government. It would be much easier -- and there would be less need for such an approach -- were Canada in possession of a domestic market several times larger, and an industrial base of sufficient size to service that market. It would be much easier, too, if the world were less interdependent, if governments in so many other countries felt less need to involve themselves so prominently in trade, investment, economic and other areas once regarded as the territory of the private sector. It would be much easier if we lived in a world where science had not yet removed so many of the great mysteries that once defined and limited the power of men. It would be easier if, there would be less need if -- but "ifs" are not available to us. History, it has been said, is not written in the subjunctive.

Which is to say that we must live with reality. It is reality that tells us that seldom elsewhere is there such a confluence of events and interests and issues as in the nuclear field. Here, we find ourselves in possession at the same moment of technology of the most revolutionary and serviceable kind, technology that has proved to all the world Canada's competence and leadership. Here, too, we are
