

rain in place. Canada welcomes these encouraging signs that action vital in preserving the health of the shared North American environment is imminent.

The defence and security of North America will continue to be a priority in Canada-USA relations. Canada is committed to its role in the NATO alliance and, bilaterally, the defence of North America through NORAD.

The meeting will give both leaders the opportunity to exchange views on the international situation. Although the current state of world affairs continues to pose major challenges, it also presents real possibilities for progress. Recent improvements in East-West relations have been remarkable. These improvements have had the most notable impact in the areas of global security, disarmament, and settlement of regional disputes. Overall world economic growth and integration has continued at a relatively rapid rate but there is also a plethora of economic problems, including protectionism, imbalances in trade and financial flows, and underdevelopment. The environment, too, has increasingly attracted international attention, and is now recognized to be a complex of problems that demands international cooperation. Canada will play its full part in discussions centering on these questions, especially given its position on the United Nations Security Council.

In Canada and the United States, a range of social issues is demanding a greater share of the attention of both governments. Among them are education, health care, day care, and drug abuse. Governments are struggling with the fiscal burdens associated with providing financing to deal with problems associated with these issues. While each country will seek to deal with these questions within the context of their own social systems and values, a mutual appreciation of each other's perception of these problems is important.