

were puzzling to those of us here in Ottawa. Though I recognize that one of the questions of American diplomacy is the balance between the olive branch in the one claw and the lightning rod and the other, however, is American strategy toward Canada is to talk rather tough and then, in fact, in the hope that it will soften us up or what were the purposes in all those moves?

MR. HAIG: Well, I think this is a question of atmospherics and perception.

First, and I think our two Heads of State and Government outlined very clearly, what was the purpose of this visit. First and foremost, to demonstrate, a demonstration by the United States, if you will, of the seriousness and the priority with which it views U.S. and American relationship.

This was, after all, the President's first trip, and we are only a few weeks in office, and there have been a number of ongoing dialogues, some extending as many as sixteen to seventeen years on these vexing interests... issues. Those dialogues take place at staff level continuously, and this is precisely the way we want it. They were not designed to be characterized by the kind of value judgments you suggested, either olive branches or switches or whatever. They are not always caresses.

I think these meetings that we had here have a second objective as well, and that was to establish a