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## Mr. Ford and Mr. Trudeau re-affirm close Canada/U.S. relations

The following exchange of correspondence between President Ford of the United States and Prime Minister Trudeau was released on August 12:

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

As I assume the duties of the Presidency, I want to assure you, your Government and the people of Canada of my determination to carry on the foreign policy of the United States in the closest co-operation and friendship with Canada as our ally and our neighbour. The Atlantic Alliance will remain the central fact of my foreign policy and the United States will honour all of its obligations and commitments to the Alliance, for its strength is the foundation of our mutual security and for building world peace.

We have recently created a new spirit of co-operation for the Alliance and for Atlantic partnership, and I will pursue this course with the same sense of purpose as President Nixon.

We, of course, will remain in contact, and should find an opportunity for an exchange of views. We will continue the close consultation and co-operation that have marked the long friendship between our people and Governments.

I have asked Secretary of State Kissinger to continue in office so as to ensure continuity in the conduct of our foreign policies. He has my full confidence and support.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford

Dear President Ford,

Your most welcome message has crossed with my note of congratulations on your assumption of the responsibilities of your new office. I nevertheless hasten to say to you how very much I welcomed the warmth and tenor of your letter. Your courtesy in communicating with me so soon after your inauguration, and your candor in assuring me of your policies toward Canada and the other members of the Atlantic Alliance reflect well upon the close and enduring qualities of the Canadian-American relationship.



*"To our friends and allies in this hemisphere, I pledge continuity in the deepening dialogue to define renewed relationships of equality and justice," said U.S. President Gerald R. Ford to a joint session of the Congress on August 12.*

I should like to thank you as well for your reference to an early exchange of views. Such discussions on a continuing basis are invaluable, I found, in maintaining and strengthening the sound working relationship between our two countries. President Nixon and I were in touch frequently to this end.

Finally let me state to you my belief that our two countries have demonstrated a degree of friendship and mutual benefits unparalleled by any other pair of neighbours in history. I have not the slightest doubt that under your leadership that friendship and those benefits will continue and increase.

I look forward to meeting you at an early opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

Pierre Elliott Trudeau