

STATEMENT TO THE PRESS BY PRESIDENT RONALD WILSON REAGAN

MARCH 11, 1981

Well, Mr. Prime Minister, I'm sure they are. You gave certainly a very thorough summing-up of the wonderful meetings we've held.

I would like first, however, to remark on the kind of welcome that I have received here. That welcome went beyond careful planning and beyond a sincere and warm reception by the Governor General and the Prime Minister. It was truly a welcome, a meeting between neighbour and neighbour. Our discussion showed that the United States and Canada stand together on many world issues. Understandably, on some issues, we see things differently. Each country has its own national interests and objectives. Each country brings to international issues a distinct point of view. But what has impressed me is the degree to which we are in agreement. And where we have differed that we have discussed our differences with the kind of openness and understanding that exists between neighbours.

We've discussed the major areas of instability in the world as the Prime Minister told you including Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Latin America. We considered carefully the Ottawa Summit which will be held here in July. That meeting will be a very useful opportunity to share views on relationships between the industrialized democracies and the Soviet Union on energy cooperation, not economic relations within the developing nations.

In addition to discussing these world issues, we carefully considered the bilateral U.S.-Canadian relationship.

We agreed wholeheartedly that consultation is vitally important to our close and cooperative relationship and we agreed to foster frank and informal consultation at all levels and at all times. Our bilateral discussions took us into the areas where our two nations are closest. We discussed matters affecting the environment, fisheries, as you've been told, energy, trade, and defense. In each of these areas we were, I believe, able to deal with the issue squarely in an atmosphere of frankness and understanding, and we did, yes, discuss the pipeline and the Canadian national energy program, took up the continuing problems the Prime Minister told you of the East Coast Boundary and Fisheries Treaties.

On the environment we addressed the garrison project and continued joint efforts to deal with both trans-boundary air pollution and the clean-up of the Great Lakes.