

STATEMENT DISCOURS

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85/17

NOTES FOR A TOAST BY THE
RIGHT HONOURABLE JOE CLARK
ON THE OCCASION OF THE
LUNCHEON OFFERED BY
HIS EXCELLENCY A.A. GROMYKO
AND MRS. GROMYKO

MOSCOW, USSR^o
APRIL 3, 1985

Your Excellency, Mrs. Gromyko, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish first of all to thank you, our hosts, for the warmth and hospitality with which you have greeted me, Maureen and my delegation, on this my first visit to the Soviet Union.

Across the centuries, travellers coming to this great country have been struck by its remarkable diversity. I have had the opportunity to see the sweep of its contrasts: the vast lands of Siberia, the modern vitality of the ancient capitals of Leningrad and Moscow. We have travelled, in a matter of hours, from the monuments of past accomplishments, to the exciting foundation for new achievements in the future--from the Hermitage Museum and the spires of the Kremlin to the Research Institutes of Novosibirsk.

Yet the complexity of this country is deeper still than its geographical regions: It is to be found in the many nationalities, languages and cultures which constitute the Soviet Union. Thus I look forward particularly to my visit to Kiev and to a first hand acquaintance with a culture whose depth and vigour have made such a contribution to Canadian society.

Because Canada is also a land of challenge and achievement. In Western Canada, my birth-place and home, the splendid variety of the landscape is mirrored in the diversity of the peoples who have enriched it. From the many cultures alive and well in Canada, there has been forged a people united--united by the common purpose of building a prosperous and tolerant nation.

The lessons of our domestic experience have also served Canada well in our foreign policy. We are a nation that has learned that, even where differences exist, consensus can be built upon a foundation of mutual understanding and areas of common purpose, and we have drawn on that experience to act as a voice for moderation in international affairs.

My visit to the Soviet Union bears witness to the depth of the Canadian governments certainty that through such contacts our respective interests will be promoted, mutual confidence enhanced, and a contribution made to easing international tensions. It would be naive to deny the depth of the differences between Canada and the Soviet Union, but these differences themselves provide compelling reasons why we should seek to increase our efforts to understand each other.

Canada is committed to NATO and to the cornerstones of the alliance--collective security and the search for a relaxation of East/West tensions. Canada and the other Western countries wish to see East/West relations become less confrontational and more cooperative. All of us share a planet and a common human identity and from this emerges one of the most ancient of human aspirations--the aspiration to live in peace.

In this regard we in Canada, and I suspect men and women worldwide, were particularly pleased at the opening in Geneva of arms control negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union.

The course of these negotiations will no doubt be arduous. The issues are complex and the differences between the two sides are many, but the goal of those talks is vital to all mankind--and it is the duty of statesmen to give their full measure to the search for agreement.

The USA and the USSR are the responsible partners at Geneva, but the interests of many others, including Canada, are very definitely on that table as well. Therefore, Canada will continue to assert the importance we attach to the successful completion of the Geneva talks.

A key factor in sustaining the process of these talks will be the development of a deeper level of trust and confidence between East and West. This is no easy task. I believe, your Excellency, that we need to achieve a new spirit in East-West relations--a spirit of management as well as of substance, perhaps with the following elements:

- the deliberate maintenance of open lines of communication, particularly in time of crisis;
- the simple habit of being present in each others countries;
- a sense of the interplay between foreign and domestic policies, in a world made small by modern communications;
- a recognition of competing interests in many parts of the world, and a dedication to restraint at key points of intersection;
- and above all, a recognition that authentic security is multi-dimensional and indivisible: political, economic, and cultural--as well as military. All of these are vital to a sense of security and well-being in any nation.

We are fortunate that this multiplicity is broadly articulated in the Helsinki Final Act, whose tenth anniversary we shall celebrate later this year. Work at the Stockholm conference is proceeding towards the definition of confidence and security building measures. The cultural forum in Budapest is being prepared and I am proud to say that Ottawa will soon be the site of the Human Rights Experts Meeting established by the CSCE Madrid Conference. Representing the host nation, I can assure you of our intention to provide the venue for a constructive meeting. As a national delegation, our experts will be expressing calmly and without polemic, Canadas deeply-held views on human rights -- on those universal principles which because they flow from the nature of man himself, are

properly the concern of all of us. The CSCE and other multilateral arrangements are important vehicles for cooperation. But bilateral relations are fundamental to momentum and texture in international affairs.

The visit of my delegation is, your excellency, intended to demonstrate the time and attention which we, for our part, are prepared to devote to Canada-Soviet relations. The programme and hospitality extended to us suggest that you have a similar approach.

The new Canadian government believes that our bilateral relations should continue to have a distinctive character. We attach importance to our protocol on consultations with the Soviet Union. We intend to broaden our contacts with the Soviet Union and thus the base on which our relationship rests. It is for this reason that I have brought seven members of the Parliament of Canada with me to become acquainted with their Soviet counterparts, and to gain first-hand knowledge of your country and its political life.

Your Excellency, there is an extensive record of cooperation between Canada and the Soviet Union. We have found significant areas of common interest, common effort and common purpose. There is much upon which to build. As in any relationship, there are issues about which we do not agree, but I believe our talks -- in New York last fall and now here in Moscow -- have established a political dialogue in which both countries have an important stake. This was fully reflected in the conversations last month between Prime Minister Mulroney and General Secretary Gorbachev.

Our economic relations are strong, with excellent potential for development in both directions. The Soviet Union is Canada's fifth largest trading partner, but I believe that the structure of our trade needs attention. We must, while continuing to develop our important trade in commodities, move ahead in the manufacturing sector, and in the modern technology of industry and of agriculture.

The northern regions of our two countries hold great promise, and we have a program of cooperation under way. My visit to Novosibirsk, and to the Siberian branch of the Academy of Sciences, confirms my belief that our common Nordicity offers us much to share.

We have set a good agenda for the coming year, and a busy calendar lies ahead. A Canadian delegation recently visited Moscow to discuss cultural, scientific and academic exchanges. In the consular field, which does influence the quality of relations, I look forward to accelerated progress on the reunification, in Canada, of those families so tragically separated by war and circumstance.

But bilateral relations are more than any sum of events, agreements or negotiations. They are based on principles. Principles of frankness and mutual respect, consistency and stability, reliability and predictability, and a perspective well beyond short-term advantage.

These principles, your Excellency, will govern Canada's approach to bilateral relations with your government, and to our part in East/West relations writ large.

In conclusion I invite you, ladies and gentlemen, to raise your glass in a toast:

To the very good health of our hosts, his Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union and Mrs. Gromyko;

To the future of Canada - Soviet relations and their service to the interests of our peoples and our governments;

And to a renewed sense of purpose in the search for peace in our world. Thank you.