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CANADA-UNITED STATES AGREEMENT ON ARCTIC COOPERATION

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, and the United States Secretary of State, the Honourable George P. Shultz, today signed an agreement on cooperation between Canada and the United States in the Arctic. The agreement affirms the political will of the two countries to cooperate in advancing their shared interests in Arctic navigation, development and security. It signals the importance which the two countries attach to protection of the unique and fragile environment of the region and the well-being of the inhabitants of the North.

The agreement signed today marks the culmination of 24 months of discussions between the two governments. "This is an important step forward for Canada in the North," Prime Minister Mulroney said today. "While we and the United States have not changed our legal positions we have come to a practical agreement that is fully consistent with the requirements of Canadian sovereignty in the Arctic. It is an improvement over the situation which prevailed previously. What we have now significantly advances Canadian interests."

President Reagan stated: "This is a pragmatic solution based on our special bilateral relationship, our common interest in cooperating on Arctic matters, and the nature of the area. It is without prejudice to our respective legal positions and it sets no precedents for other areas."

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures

Canada

AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
ON ARCTIC COOPERATION

1. The Government of Canada and the Government of the United States of America recognize the particular interests and responsibilities of their two countries as neighbouring states in the Arctic.

2. The Government of Canada and the Government of the United States also recognize that it is desirable to cooperate in order to advance their shared interests in Arctic development and security. They affirm that navigation and resource development in the Arctic must not adversely affect the unique environment of the region and the well-being of its inhabitants.

3. In recognition of the close and friendly relations between their two countries, the uniqueness of ice-covered maritime areas, the opportunity to increase their knowledge of the marine environment of the Arctic through research conducted during icebreaker voyages, and their shared interest in safe, effective icebreaker navigation off their Arctic coasts:

- The Government of the United States and the Government of Canada undertake to facilitate navigation by their icebreakers in their respective Arctic waters and to develop cooperative procedures for this purpose;
- The Government of Canada and the Government of the United States agree to take advantage of their icebreaker navigation to develop and share research information, in accordance with generally accepted principles of international law, in order to advance their understanding of the marine environment of the area;
- The Government of the United States pledges that all navigation by U.S. icebreakers within waters claimed by Canada to be internal will be undertaken with the consent of the Government of Canada.

4. Nothing in this agreement of cooperative endeavour between Arctic neighbours and friends nor any practice thereunder affects the respective positions of the Governments of the United States and of Canada on the Law of the Sea in this or other maritime areas or their respective positions regarding third parties.

5. This Agreement shall enter into force upon signature. It may be terminated at any time by three months' written notice given by one Government to the other.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, duly authorized to that effect, have signed this Agreement.

DONE in duplicate, at Ottawa, this day of
1988, in the English and French languages, each version
being equally authentic.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
CANADA

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA