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# STATEMENT DISCOURS

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EXTÉRIEURES.



ADDRESS BY THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,  
THE HONOURABLE MARK MACGUIGAN,  
AT A DINNER GIVEN  
FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE  
NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL,  
BRUSSELS,  
DECEMBER 10, 1981

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Mr. Secretary-General, distinguished colleagues and guests, it is both a great honour and a real pleasure for me to welcome you here this evening. I am especially pleased to welcome Mr. Perez-Llorca and Ambassador Aguirre de Carcer, who of course were present this afternoon when we took the initial step toward bringing their great country into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization -- a memorable event in the history of the Alliance.

I trust it has not escaped your attention that our menu this evening has a distinctly Canadian content. In fact, all the items have been Canadian -- except for the coffee and two of the wines. More Canadian dishes could have been added.

Two Canadian animals, the great Canadian moose and the smaller beaver, might have been asked to contribute dishes. Beaver-tail soup could have been served, but at great inconvenience to a number of beavers. No agreement could be reached on how to serve the moose. Chocolate moose was rejected as impossible to prepare. We also considered serving the boiled bark of the birch tree but decided it is too indelicate a dish to eat in black tie. Another idea was boiled pine needles. The liquid produced has a distinctive flavour but is normally enjoyed only by people who feel that they are not getting enough vitamin C, hence the limited menu we have sampled.

I cannot help but think that in arranging the transportation of this food from Canada, which involved some rather split-second timing and close teamwork with the Hilton staff, we have provided a model for our military planners wrestling with the logistics of pre-stocking and rapid reinforcement. Indeed if our logistical efforts had failed, this dinner might have become a "super-restricted session".

It has been said that Canada was a "midwife at the birth of NATO". Indeed, it is a source of deep pride to Canadians that we were among the founding nations of the Alliance, that it was Louis St-Laurent and Lester B. Pearson who played instrumental roles in transforming the Brussels Treaty into a strong North Atlantic regional pact. For my country, NATO has a central importance which transcends its defensive role; for us, the Alliance provides an indispensable institutional link between Europe and North America -- if you will, a trans-Atlantic bridge. This close bond between the two sides of the Atlantic has been and remains a vital element in our foreign policy.

We have had, I think, a very full and useful day of discussions on issues of critical concern to the Alliance. Their breadth and scope testify to the central role NATO plays as a forum in which to shape and harmonize our foreign policies. Their candour testifies to the vitality of our consultative

process, bearing witness yet again to our mutual trust, shared values and strength of purpose.

The leitmotiv of this ministerial has been, I think, communication -- communication with our own publics as well as with the other side. Our concern has been how best to convey with clarity and persuasion that in the process of safeguarding our own security, the Alliance is an instrument for peace, that our abiding purpose is to promote dialogue and constructive East-West relations.

However, in order to communicate effectively with these audiences, we must first communicate effectively among ourselves, in the spirit of openness and goodwill that has characterized our discussions today. A constant effort must be made at all times to put into practice the goal announced in the Ottawa statement, namely reinforcing the practice of open and timely consultations... on questions of common interest.

It is, of course, not always easy to communicate, to convey clearly what is on our minds. Sometimes there are difficulties even understanding one another within the Alliance, and very often, immense difficulties ensuring comprehension of our views by the other side. There are not only problems of language to overcome but also differences of national perceptions and aspirations, and differing unstated assumptions. This reminds me of the computer which was designed to translate from English into Russian and back again into English. The aphorism "out of sight, out of mind" was fed into the computer and translated from English into Russian. A bit later, it was rendered back into English and emerged from the computer as "invisible insanity".

The Alliance has now entered its fourth decade, a remarkable achievement for a group of fifteen sovereign states that will soon number sixteen. In reaffirming our adherence to the goals and ideals of the North Atlantic Treaty, I feel that we can look to the future, confident that the vitality and creativity of our peoples, united in a common effort, will be equal to the challenges awaiting them.

I ask you to join with me in drinking a toast to our respective Heads of State and to the Alliance. Long may it keep the peace.