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MEXICO-CANADA ASSOCIATION HARMONIOUS AND EFFECTIVE

Remarks by the Right Honourable Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, in Mexico City, January 23, 1976.

Mr. President, distinguished guests -- thank you very much for your warm welcome. Though we have been in Mexico only a few hours, your hospitality has made me feel very much at home. We remember well your visit to Canada in 1973, Mr. President, and have long looked forward to this opportunity to accept your invitation to return. You and I have had one occasion to meet since your trip to Ottawa, and I have had many occasions to view with admiration and some degree of envy the energetic program in which you have been engaged over the past two years. Your travel schedule, your legislative record, your international initiatives -- these have all set a very high standard for others to follow. I congratulate you, Sir, on your accomplishments.

Canada and Mexico occupy the same continent, but for far too long our history and our interests have pursued parallel courses -- never in conflict but not often enough in conscious co-operation. Happily, in recent years that has been changing. In terms of bilateral interests we have found much that is attractive in one another; on the broader issues that affect the entire international community we share, in most instances, the same ultimate goals.

Perhaps it has been natural for Canada and Mexico each to have pursued its own destiny, almost oblivious of the other. Certainly our histories have been quite distinctive. In the first centuries of Canadian history, our contacts with other lands were confined almost entirely to France and Britain; your own history was already ancient when it became linked to the Spanish tradition. In 1867, the year in which Canada adopted its own constitution, Mexico was ending a brief period of foreign intervention. Canada became fully autonomous only in 1931.

In the ways in which we have structured our institutions, in our methods of governmental activity, and in the patterns of external relations that we originally inherited, Canada and Mexico have differed. Now we are finding more in common. Different though our forms of government be, we are both democracies. Separated geographically as we are by the world's most advanced economy, we also share the experience of dealing at close quarters, and in many significant spheres of endeavour, with that economy.

Mexico is a member of the Organization of American States and a party to the Rio Treaty. Canada is a member of the Commonwealth, of l'Agence de Coopération culturelle et technique and of NATO. Mexico belongs to SELA (Latin American Economic System), Canada to the OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development). Our two countries find increasing opportunities for co-operation and joint consultation in the organs and agencies of the United Nations, and also in many inter-American agencies and bodies in which we exchange technical experience and combine efforts in support of development.

I mentioned trade, Mr. President. I know that you welcome as much as I do the dramatic increase in trade between our two countries in the past few years. Although Canada first dispatched a permanent trade commissioner to Mexico in 1905, and despite the fact that a Mexico-Canada trade agreement was signed in 1946 providing for most-favoured-nation treatment, our bilateral trade in 1970 had only reached the level of some \$150 million. The preliminary figures for 1975 indicate that trade will have increased to \$300 million, an increase, in percentage terms, of 100 per cent. And Canadian investment continues to flow here in increasing amounts. This Canadian trade and this Canadian investment are contributing, you told me in Ottawa in 1973, Mr. President, to Mexico's laudatory economic growth and to diminishing Mexico's previous heavy reliance on a single economic partner. And, of course, the 200,000 Canadians that your Government estimates visited Mexico last year contributed not only to your tourist industry but to a deeper understanding and knowledge of Mexico by Canadians. The discovery of your art and architecture, your advances in the sciences of archaeology and museology, are providing inspiration and stimulation to our artists. Significantly, it is through you that Canada and Canadians have often first been introduced to the human and cultural diversity of Latin America.

These are healthy trends, and I am confident they will continue. It is the policy of the Canadian Government to encourage Canadians increasingly to play an active, responsible role in the international community. Mexico is one of the principal countries with which we hope to strengthen and expand our relations. We shall attempt to pursue this course on a basis of mutual respect and of understanding for the sensitivities and genius of the people of each country. These are basic ingredients guiding the policies of Canada's International Development Research Centre, for example. That Centre is funded by the Canadian Government but operates under the direction of an international board of directors. It is engaged in a wide variety of developmental research projects in Central and South America. These range from activities in agriculture and nutrition to population and the health sciences. At the present moment, pro-

jects funded to some \$2 million are in progress in Mexico alone.

The International Development Research Centre is only one of a variety of Canada's activities that involve it responsibly in international affairs, and in particular in the efforts of the developing nations to secure for their citizens lives of dignity and value. When you addressed the Canadian Parliament in 1973, Mr. President, you spoke in moving terms about the aspirations of the non-industrialized countries, and you employed a phrase that has remained with me since. You said then that a harmonious world could evolve only if international relations were founded on "principles of international equity". Your own contribution to the formulation of those principles, particularly in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, has received wide acclaim and earned deep respect. Canada is committed, I assure you, to working in every effective way to contribute to a more equitable distribution of benefits among the peoples of the world, and to establish the structures necessary to house a balanced, co-operative international community.

We welcome every opportunity to engage in positive discussions with other governments to clarify the principles that should guide international economic relations. We have participated in the two recent special sessions of the General Assembly, acted as host to the Commonwealth Group of Experts, served for many months as the chairman of the Interim Committee of the International Monetary Fund, are present at the Multilateral Trade Negotiations in Geneva, and have been elected recently as one of two co-chairmen of the Conference on International Economic Co-operation (CIEC). These activities and these responsibilities we take very seriously.

In our efforts to reduce the gap in living standards between the industrialized and developing countries, we do not regard as sufficient a simple transfer of real resources, although that continues to be needed. We regard as even more important a liberalization of world trade and the introduction of a range of techniques to benefit Third World economies. In these respects, we are either introducing or are actively discussing with others, in such forums as the CIEC, a number of proposals. One such, already in place, is our own general scheme of preferences. (I might add that I am proud that 82 per cent in value of all imports in Canada from developing countries enters duty-free.) Other proposals, many still in the planning stage, involve such conceptions as: commodity agreements involving both producers and consumers; new techniques in price stabilization; schemes for stabilization of export earnings; tariff cuts and differential treatment, where appropriate, on non-tariff barrier issues; and drafting of international codes to guide the operations of multi-

national enterprises and provide for the transfer of technology on mutually satisfactory terms.

These proposals are not all originally Canadian, nor are many of them necessarily dramatic in their nature. We believe them to be worthy of careful examination, however, for we place greater weight on effectiveness in international activity than we do on theatrics.

The Canadian Government will continue to strive internationally for workable solutions, and it will continue to emphasize to Canadians the need to implement the "principles of international equity" stressed by you, Mr. President. It will continue as well, in international forums, to stress that a healthy, balanced world economy cannot evolve without healthy, growing economies in the industrialized countries. High rates of inflation and high unemployment in those countries will block both the economic [impetus] and the political impetus required to bring into reality a new international economic order.

The world's economic system and the quest of peoples everywhere for a decent standard of living demand from all of us our attention, our energy and our wisdom. No other international issue in the world today is regarded by my Government as more important. One other issue, however, we regard as equally important. It is that of proliferation of nuclear weapons. This problem demands of us equal attention, equal energy, and equal wisdom. As in the pursuit of a new economic order (and, I could add, in the pursuit of a new legal regime for the oceans) so in the pursuit of sane nuclear policies in the world, Mexico and Canada have worked harmoniously and effectively. Mexican leadership in formulating and completing the Treaty of Tlatelolco and Mexico's forceful participation in the complex work of the Geneva Conference of the Committee on Disarmament reflect the importance attached by your country to this crucial issue.

Because Canada is one of the world leaders in nuclear technology, and in the application of that technology for peaceful purposes, our policies should be understood by all in order that no misunderstandings can arise. They are simple to explain. First, we believe we have an obligation towards the developing countries to share our technology with them. We believe it [to be] wrong that the benefits of twentieth-century science [should] be denied to human beings anywhere. For that reason, we are actively engaged, both in our economic-assistance programs and on a commercial basis, in the export of material, technology and facilities for power-generation, and for medical and agricultural purposes. That is the first point of our policy -- to assist the developing countries in "leapfrogging" the

industrial revolution and landing in the technological age. The second point is equally simple. We shall not export except under the strongest of safeguards and subject to the inspection machinery of the International Atomic Energy Agency. We are constantly pressing for ever-wider acceptance of the highest standard of safeguards. We seek to tighten even further the constraints against explosions said to be for peaceful purposes. We are fearful that this great gift of the atom may be misused and lead to incalculable destruction and suffering. We believe, as Canadians, and as members of the human race, resident on this single, fragile planet, that we have some standing to voice these concerns. We were the first country in the world to possess the technology, and the industrial and economic bases, to produce nuclear weapons, and chose not to do so. We chose not to manufacture weapons 30 years ago when we first learned how. And we continue to refuse to do so. We believe that the stature of a country and of a people is measured not by their ability to destroy but by their willingness to assist the human condition.

The law of the sea is another major endeavour in which Canada and Mexico have been closely associated for many years. Both our countries have stressed, and will continue to do so, the need for a new legal order to manage the vast sea expanses for the benefit of mankind. We each have lengthy coastlines, we each share an acute perception of the physical and economic characteristics that must be taken into account in a new convention if the seas are to be preserved as a factor for peace and progress.

These issues -- guaranteeing that the atom will be employed only for peaceful purposes, ensuring that the seas and their resources will remain symbols of prosperity and harmony, restructuring the world's economy to ensure an equitable distribution of benefits -- are of immense complexity and of towering proportions. They offer to governments challenges as formidable as any that have been posed since the dawn of civilization. But, given a choice, should we prefer to live in any other period in history? I think not. If peoples are willing to dedicate their energies towards peaceful ends, if they are willing to accept the reality of interdependence, if they are willing to accept responsibility as stewards of this earth and of its environment, then we are truly entering the dawn of an era of unprecedented accomplishment.

I dare to believe that these things can happen -- that the demonstrated benefits that flow from co-operation between such countries as Mexico and Canada can provide incentive for peoples and governments in all parts of the world to concentrate their endeavours on activities for the benefit of human beings as distinct from those that are measured in terms solely of prestige. I dare to believe so

because the perils we face are so ominous that a failure to overcome them may well seal the fate of mankind.

On an earlier visit to Mexico I had occasion to visit Oaxaca and there to see the giant "Tree of Tule". I was told of its age -- 3,000 years, the oldest living thing in Mexico, one of the oldest in the western hemisphere. This tree was witness to the prime of the Zapotec and Mixtec civilizations, was ancient long before Cortez arrived, has silently observed the painful struggle for independence, is now watching the efforts of your Government, Mr. President, to bring to your people and to all peoples a more equitable share of the benefits of life in the twentieth century.

If we are wise and prudent in our nuclear policies, if we are imaginative and innovative in our economic policies, if -- above all -- we are tolerant and generous in our attitudes toward others, the "Tree of Tule" will live through this dangerous age. It will survive the current environmental hazards that face us all and future historians will recount this period as one of the most stimulating and accomplished of all human endeavour.

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