



# Statements and Speeches

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## A REUNION OF FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS

A Toast by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson, at a Dinner in Honour of United States Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, Ottawa, November 21, 1978.

Honourable Secretary of State, honoured guests from the United States and Canada, it is my great honour this evening to welcome to Ottawa, and to Canada, my very good friend Cyrus Vance. Cy Vance is a colleague in international affairs with whom it has been a pleasure and a privilege to work in a number of international forums over the past two years.

This is a very special occasion for us in Canada. It is less a state occasion than a reunion of friends and neighbours. Since I became Secretary of State for External Affairs two years ago, I have been impressed by the unique character of relations between Canada and the United States. We are two young nations that grew up in a new world, whose populations are made up of people from a multitude of nations and civilizations from different parts of the world. We speak a common idiom in North America — even though in Canada we do it in two languages — and understand each other perhaps better than any other two comparable nations in the world. This understanding and willingness to see the other's point of view has enabled us to achieve some exemplary forms of co-operation.

We welcome tonight a friend, and a representative of a vigorous, and indeed courageous, Administration. You and President Carter have brought renewed elements of humanity and personal concern to U.S. foreign policy. Your contribution to President Carter's magnificent achievement in bringing Israel and Egypt together again and rekindling their resolve to find peace in the Middle East is well known. Only a dedicated Administration in the United States could have established this framework. There may still be some distance to go before that part of the world knows the full blessings of peace, but Canada is also committed to doing its part in keeping both parties negotiating and ensuring the necessary international atmosphere for a lasting peace.

On bilateral matters, never in the history of our two countries have we faced more difficult and complex problems; yet relations between Canada and the United States have seldom been better than they are today. To be sure, there are tensions and still unresolved issues of great importance, but there is no bitterness, no sense of confrontation. Rather there is a strong and mutually-shared commitment to consultation and co-operation, and the results are obvious. The record of our specific achievements speaks for itself.

This audience does not need detailed reminders of the extent of our interdependence, but a few statistics are in order. Canada and the United States do more business together than any other two countries on earth. American exports to Canada equal

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those to all of the European Economic Community and are two-and-a-half times U.S. exports to Japan. Canadian cross-border sales dwarf our exports to the rest of the world, with Canadian auto sales alone worth one-and-a-half times everything we send to the EEC.

And raw statistics tell only part of the story. Because of the intricate economic linkages, an improvement in the Canadian economy benefits the United States far more than a comparable rise in any other country or region; the reverse is equally true — in spades. It is not by choice only that we co-operate to fight to-day's major economic problems; it is a matter of necessity. Neither country can enjoy real economic health while the other is ailing; nor can one nation remain insensitive for long to the other's legitimate concerns.

Fortunately, on virtually all unresolved issues negotiations are continuing and I can report with satisfaction that there is across-the-board progress towards resolution. This is yet another mark of the good state of Canada-U.S. relations, for, in to-day's troubled economic times, countries usually move instinctively towards isolation, protection and confrontation.

No one speech can cover the full range of Canada/United States relations. Even if it could, we can be certain that, before the words were uttered, new elements would be added and other no-longer-relevant issues deleted. Such is the nature of one of the most complex and dynamic bilateral associations in the world.

Despite this ever-changing pattern, there are, nevertheless, certain constants in the relationship, most of them highly desirable and positive, but a few, as we have seen, that produce ongoing, inevitable tensions. These call for constant attention and mutual sensitivity if they are to be kept within manageable limits.

When speaking of our common interests and characteristics, the temptation to indulge in high-blown rhetoric is almost irresistible. By any measurement, ours is a remarkable and unique example to the world. In my extensive travels, I have found nothing in either the developed or the developing world that comes even remotely close — quite the contrary. Good neighbourliness and mutual trust between nations are rare ingredients indeed on this tragically troubled planet.

Although I have discovered that there are many around the world who think otherwise, good Canada/United States relations are not something we inherited automatically along with our North American domiciles. We have had to work at it; we must still work at it. Otherwise minor irritants, of which there must be many thousands between Canadians and Americans in the run of a year, would soon accumulate and merge into a general feeling of antipathy and even bitterness. This is the fact, and the example we can convey in our international relations.

In our dealings with the world community, there is little real difference in the ultimate goals of Canada and the United States. This is not only because we consult on and co-ordinate many of our foreign-policy initiatives. It is also because,

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instinctively, we perceive international problems in the same way and usually arrive independently at the same conclusions. The essential difference, which can create difficulties, is that the United States is a super-power, while Canada's ability to influence and shape events is much more limited. Nevertheless, there is a worthwhile and effective role for Canada that recent events have demonstrated.

In recent weeks, Secretary Vance and I have been closely associated in dealing with problems in southern Africa, and specifically in seeking to bring all sides to accept a United Nations solution to the transfer of political authority in Namibia. I have admired the energy, persistence and compassion that Secretary Vance has brought to these meetings.

We have also been closely associated in seeking a means of moving the troubled island and peoples of Cyprus towards that elusive goal of harmonizing two communities that have long known mistrust and conflict. Canadian troops have been undertaking United Nations peacekeeping operations in Cyprus for many years. Cyprus is a sister nation in the Commonwealth, one whose problems have been a close concern to us for many years. Mr Secretary, we must persist in this arduous task. We must find some way out of this perennial stalemate.

These are a few instances where we have demonstrated the scope for useful collaboration between Canada and the United States on the world scene. There are many other areas in which we can benefit from mutual support — in helping the refugees from the still-troubled nations of Indochina, in pursuing human-rights goals and international economic development throughout the world.

We are also going through a time of economic uncertainty and adjustment in the free industrial economies. Our two nations have joined together at the OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) and with the major industrial nations at the "economic summit" to work out strategies for dealing with these economic problems.

Our abilities to progress on the world scene are directly linked to economic prosperity at home. In our discussions tomorrow, we shall be reviewing the economic performance in our two countries, whose economies are so intimately linked.

Of course, international and economic affairs are not the only subjects on our agenda. The visit of Secretary Vance to Ottawa gives us the opportunity, as close friends and responsible neighbours, to review in a relaxed atmosphere some of the problems of managing our neighbourhood.

Tomorrow, we shall sign the second Great Lakes water-quality agreement — a fine example of the willingness and the ability to co-operate constructively, dynamically, and even with a measure of boldness, in protecting one of the great natural wonders of North America, and the most important water boundary between our two countries.

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We shall also be undertaking more difficult discussions on a more intractable problem — that of settling on a mutually-satisfactory regime for our extended maritime boundaries and management of fisheries and mineral resources in our maritime economic zones.

We shall review progress and problems associated with building a natural-gas pipeline from Alaska across Canadian territory to the lower 48 states.

We shall extend these discussions to other forms of co-operation in the energy sector. Efficient management and delivery of energy resources constitute one of the major challenges of industrial societies, and it behoves us to explore possibilities for mutually-beneficial projects to respond to this challenge in our neighbourhood.

But, in a very real sense, our neighborhood is now the world. Canada is deeply conscious of the world-leadership burden the United States is called upon to carry. We know that, in this position, the interrelation between important issues is incredibly intricate. Citizens of both our countries are not sufficiently aware sometimes that international issues are not a series of individual watertight compartments. Proposed solutions for one problem may be perfectly logical in that case but their application would serve only to exacerbate another equally-serious difficulty. When smaller countries or regions, or even groups of people within our own countries, have a special interest in only one element of the interlocking global puzzle, it is not always easy for them to comprehend the failure to advance on the particular and narrow front of their concern. They fail to see, sometimes, the mutual exclusivity of individual initiatives each of which may be eminently sensible in its own right.

In terms of Canada-U.S. relations in the international field, this is an ever-present fact of life. Because Canada does not have the same global responsibilities and range of interests, there are times when we find it difficult to stay in concert with the United States.

An independent foreign policy for Canada is not only a necessity for a strong and vital country — it also provides that element of credibility that gives meaning and significance to Canadian support for United States initiatives in international affairs. If the world community took it as read that Canada would always agree with the United States, then Canada would be cast in the role of a mere cipher and we should be no good to anyone — least of all ourselves.

And we must be ourselves. Despite our deep and abiding friendship, we remain two distinct peoples, alike where it counts and different where it counts. For America, there has been the agony of civil war — the courageous act, one of the finest in all history, of facing up to and subduing racial intolerance and bigotry. There has been also America's remarkable resurgence after the tragedy of Vietnam and the recent constitutional crisis, the reaffirmation of the moral strength that helped to build the United States and upon which Americans have always been able to draw in difficult and trying times.

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From our side of the border, we Canadians have watched the fascinating drama of the developing, evolving America, sometimes with concern, often with admiration and even envy and always with affection. Canadians appreciate the terrible burden of world leadership the United States has assumed, the remarkable generosity it has displayed and the equanimity with which it continues to endure the harsh and often unreasonable criticism that power and leadership cannot seem to escape.

Often, around the world, I see and hear glaring examples of man's ingratitude and a widespread lack of comprehension of what the United States is seeking to accomplish. Those are times when it is my pleasure to seek to put the record straight, to say "they're our neighbours and they're not like that at all".

Canada has followed its own road to nationhood — different from that of the United States but in its own way no less troubled and difficult and no less rewarding. We possess today, on our half of this North American continent, a land of proud achievements and of incredible promise. We do not underestimate the seriousness and magnitude of our present problems or of the challenge we now face to our national unity. But Americans, who have watched us for so long from their side of the border, will know that our sense of national purpose remains strong, that our will and our ability to accommodate legitimate though diverse objectives have not diminished, and that the determination of the great majority of Canadians of all backgrounds, and in every region, is to build a stronger and even more united Canada.

As we pursue this important task, we appreciate the attitude of our American friends. The total absence of any improper interference is only what we should expect from a trusted neighbour. It should be an example for others.

Indeed, there is much in our relationship that others could emulate. We live in a world where trust between neighbours is in woefully short supply and where suspicion and cynicism are the principal ingredients in international dealings. How satisfying in such a climate to know that, in Canada/United States relations, a simple phone-call between Ottawa and Washington is often enough to resolve a serious problem and that a handshake can serve as well as a complex treaty.

We Canadians want to keep things that way; I am sure you Americans do too. And we shall.

Mr Secretary, and honoured guests, I should like to propose a toast to the continuation of the warmth and friendship shared by Canadians in all parts of the country with their fellows in the United States.

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