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85/31

NOTES FOR A TOAST GIVEN BY
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
ON THE OCCASION OF THE
DINNER IN HONOUR OF
H.E. VITALY I. VOROTNIKOV,
MEMBER OF THE POLITBURO
OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE
OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY
OF THE SOVIET UNION AND
CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS OF THE RUSSIAN SOVIET
FEDERATED SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

OTTAWA
MAY 27, 1985

Your Excellency, Madam Vorotnikova, Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is with a particular pleasure that I welcome you to Canada today. I am delighted to have an opportunity to return the gracious hospitality offered me during my memorable visit to the Soviet Union. I am glad to be able to honour a distinguished political leader from one of Canada's two principal neighbours. I am also conscious of the great importance of your visit. Your coming, Sir, is the latest step in efforts to develop our bilateral relations. Your stay will also, I hope, contribute to a better understanding of each other's positions, aims and motives, at this juncture in East/West relations.

This year marks the 40th Anniversary of the victory of our war-time Alliance. We would do well to consider the lessons of this anniversary year: that the forces of unreason can dominate even the most reasonable of men; that democratic values are the fundamental defence against the spread of tyranny.

It is also the anniversary of our decision to work out differences without resort to force of arms through the new institution of peace -- the United Nations. Our record since then has not been bad, despite the decades of tensions, sometimes dangerous, and certainly costly, between East and West.

We cannot be complacent about this. We have succeeded during this period in controlling these tensions sufficiently to prevent an outbreak of hostilities, but we have not yet achieved a durable peace.

Today, on both sides, we are renewing our efforts to diminish the strains that have characterized East/West relations since the end of the seventies. It is, for this reason, important that we should understand each other better, if our efforts to establish sounder East/West relations are not to falter -- as did the efforts at détente in the preceding decade.

The differences between East and West are certainly great. They do not, however, exclude the development of a more cooperative and less confrontational relationship, a relationship marked by:

- a greater awareness of each other's intentions;
- a greater recognition of each other's interests;
and
- a higher degree of mutual respect.

To achieve these aims, we need open political dialogue, we also need a broader relationship built on wider contacts and more extensive cooperation. The varied nature of East/West relations means that we cannot afford to be transfixed by any one set of issues, even issues as important as arms control. We need a fuller agenda for acting together at all levels.

The timing of your visit, Sir, is propitious. There are negotiations underway between the United States and your country which we all hope will lead to effective nuclear arms control and disarmament. There has been a change of leadership in both Canada and the Soviet Union. As I mentioned to you in Moscow, both our countries now have young leaders who will be in power for some time. This presents special opportunities for cooperation. What we must do is determine areas in which we have common interests. We can then work towards defining common goals and drawing up an agenda for action.

Your visit will give you an opportunity to see how Canada operates; what our philosophical basis is; what our strengths are; and what the possibilities are of closer cooperation.

We have been able to create a tolerant, humane and dynamic society. We have also been able to construct and hold together, by peaceful means, a country of considerable diversity, whose extent is surpassed only by your own. The human rights that are fixed in our constitution, and thus take precedence over any law, are to us more than the cornerstone of our system: they have become for us moral values. It is for this reason that the CSCE Human Rights Experts Meeting now taking place in Ottawa is so important to us.

An important aspect of our political system is our federalism. Our two languages, our enormous size and the varied backgrounds of Canadians have all combined to make us a highly decentralized federal state. Our provinces are powerful. Together with our municipalities they spend about twice as much of total Canadian tax revenues as the Federal Government. I am delighted that Premier Lougheed of my native province of Alberta has taken the initiative of inviting you to visit. I am sure you will find your stay there stimulating. It is a dynamic province with a strong, go-ahead government.

The contacts between the Russian Republic and the Province of Alberta are a good example of the broadening of contacts between our two countries that will become

increasingly necessary if cooperation is to develop. For our relationship to mature, we must bring wider circles of decision makers, opinion formers and experts in touch with each other.

You will discover that, because of our climate and geography are similar to yours, we have worked out solutions to problems of development that may be applicable in the Soviet Union. We are interested in sharing these with you just as we wish to learn from you. We believe that the common characteristics of our two countries provide the basis for closer relations.

Our trade is already important. The Soviet Union is Canada's fourth largest trading partner. We recognize 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 technologies of industry and agriculture.

In seeking closer cooperation, we must recognize that we are not going to change the nature of each other's country or systems, and that there will inevitably be differences between us. We, in Canada, believe that, in spite of our differences, as well as because of them, it is important to continue to talk to each other, to visit each other's country and give to our bilateral relationship greater breadth, both for our mutual benefit and as part of a contribution to better East/West relations.

For all these reasons I welcome your visit, and I would like to propose a toast to your own very good health and that of Madam Vorotnikova, to the further development of Canadian/Soviet relations in the interest of our peoples and governments, and to a renewed sense of purpose in the search for peace in the world.