

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSEA TOAST BY THE PRESIDENT
IN HONOR OF
PRIME MINISTER PIERRE ELLIOTT TRUDEAU
THE BLUE ROOM

Mr. Prime Minister, Gentlemen:

It is a great pleasure to welcome you here as the leader of a Nation we hold in deep respect and fond affection. I am also very pleased that it has been possible for us to arrange our meeting at this early date. It underlines the importance that we in the United States attach to our relations with Canada.

We share a peaceful border as exemplary as it is extensive. As friends, as allies and as trading partners we have many ties. The bonds between our two countries are strong and reflect our traditionally close and friendly association as free peoples.

Coming from Michigan, I know the U.S. -Canadian border well. Crossing that border marked my first foreign trip. And I have spent many happy hours skiing in the Canadian Laurentians. Mr. Prime Minister, I know that you share my passion for skiing and for many other athletic activities. In fact, I believe it is a safe assumption that we are the only two heads of government ever to be photographed on trampolines in the same year. As next door neighbors, there is an informality in our association which lets us assess our common interests and concerns with an ease unique in the conduct of foreign affairs. It is, therefore, most appropriate that our first meeting should be a working visit.

As is often the case with friends and neighbors, we have our honest differences. At the same time, Mr. Prime Minister, we have an excellent record of disagreeing without being disagreeable, of resolving differences by discussion and negotiation. You may be sure that I look forward to continuing that tradition as we work together to strengthen U.S. -Canadian relations.

In our meeting earlier today, we reaffirmed the commitment of the United States and Canada to cooperate fully in meeting the challenges and opportunities that lie before us. Earlier this year, our Governments signed the Declaration on Atlantic Relations, marking the 25th Anniversary of NATO. That Declaration provides a fresh statement of purpose for the Alliance -- an Alliance which plays an essential role in our efforts to further detente and the prospects for peace.

As we continue to work for peace, the problems of finance, of energy, of food and resources will require our most careful attention and that of all nations if they are to be dealt with in our best interests and those of the world community. It is important, then, that our two nations -- both highly industrialized, both culturally and socially attuned, both similarly motivated -- should work together in close consultation and cooperation.

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Mr. Prime Minister, a few weeks ago, I met with your Ambassador to receive a set of Olympic coins commemorating the forthcoming Montreal Olympics. I noted then that the Olympics would be taking place at the same time as the United States Bicentennial Celebration -- and that both our countries could look forward to many, many visitors back-and-forth across our borders. We look forward to this prospect with the greatest of pleasure.

And now, to express our great friendship to you, Mr. Prime Minister, and to the Canadian people, I raise my glass in toast to the Queen of Canada.

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