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Final Statement - Pierre Elliott Trudeau - Dorado Beach, Puerto Rico

Mr. President, what I mean to say is that this consciousness of ourselves as democratic countries at a time when, within our own countries even, and obviously outside of our countries, the values of freedom and of democracy on which our society are built, at a time when they are challenged, I think it is important that we meet here as leaders who not only attempt to solve economic problems but to discover an identity of views and we are prepared to develop together values which will preserve the freedoms in which we all believe.

And at a time when the hundreds of millions of people around the world are judging us not only on our economic performance but on our moral and ethical standards in the values which we promote in the defense of freedom, I think it is very important that we have established this collective consciousness between us. And it is certain that as democracies we have to get our peoples to join us in believing in these values and in fighting for them, but it is certain that we can all help each other, that steps taken in one country in the pursuit of freedom or in the achievement of higher and ethical standards can contribute to the defense and the increase of these values in the rest of our countries, and that is why what we have done here collectively is stronger than any steps that we might have taken individually.

In other words, we have realized that we are not only interdependent in an economic sense but we are interdependent in a sense that we all have the responsibility of making democracy efficient and progressive and just.

We all know on these occasions to enliven amongst our own societies the spirit of cooperation which has brought us together and which I am sure we will all depart strengthened.

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