

Keynote Speech  
The Honourable Lawrence Cannon  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Conference of Defence Associations Institute  
Annual Seminar

*"CANADA-U.S. RELATIONS: THE SECURITY  
DIMENSION"*

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Chateau Laurier

## **INTRODUCTION**

Thank you Dr. Cowan for the kind introduction, and thank you for the invitation to speak at CDA's 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Seminar.

It is a privilege to be among so many important players in the field of defence and security from Canada and abroad.

## **OVERVIEW**

The subject of this seminar "Canada-United States Relations – the Security Dimension", a subject that is more timely than ever.

As a new administration begins its term in the United States (U.S.) it is important that we take stock of our defence and security relations, a central pillar in the most important bilateral relationship in the world.

Indeed, it is a measure of the importance of the bilateral relationship that the administration's first meetings with foreign governments have put Canada at the 'start line' – with the President's visit to Ottawa and my own meeting with Secretary of State Clinton shortly after – last Tuesday to be exact.

The visit was an important occasion to set a positive and forward-looking tone for our relations with the new U.S. administration.

The leaders agreed on the need for a joint effort on North American economic recovery and established a U.S.-Canada clean energy dialogue.

They also discussed North American security, including the management of the Canada-U.S. border, clean energy and international security priorities, including Afghanistan of course - and the upcoming NATO Summit.

Both Prime Minister Harper and President Obama have recognized that now is not the time for protectionism.

A short-term temptation that leads to long-term damage as seen in the late 20's and of course 30's during the Great Depression period.

Like us, our American neighbours also know that a secure and efficient border must be a central priority to ensure the steady movement of goods, services and people and to be able to deter terrorism. That is key to our shared prosperity.

With a new administration, the United States foreign policy agenda will change.

We can expect: a renewed approach to multilateral cooperation. A new focus on Afghanistan. The introduction of what Secretary of State Clinton has called 'smart power'. And a new approach to Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Mrs. Clinton and I had a productive meeting and discussed a number of key issues, including Afghanistan and the Middle East.

I look forward to working with Secretary Clinton as we move forward on key international security and foreign policy issues, and as we plan for the upcoming NATO Summit and the Summit of the Americas.

Today, I would like to provide some insight into the Canadian perspective and how we hope to work with the U.S. on the continental and global dimensions of the bilateral security relationship.

## **THE HOME GAME**

### **Continental Defence**

Nos deux pays coopèrent depuis longtemps à la défense du continent contre les menaces externes.

C'est la Commission permanente mixte de défense Canada-États-Unis qui définit le contexte politico-militaire de la coopération bilatérale.

Fondée il y a près de 70 ans, la Commission témoigne de nos relations politico-militaires et diplomatiques :

Elle illustre les nombreux liens institutionnels et autres dont nous disposons pour répondre à des défis communs.

Nous avons reconduit le traité du NORAD à perpétuité, nous lui avons confié une nouvelle mission d'alerte maritime, et nous l'avons adapté au monde de l'après-11 septembre.

Nous avons l'intention de veiller à ce que le NORAD reste adapté au nouveau contexte international.

### **Trade and Security: the Border**

Our countries are not just linked by our geography and institutions but also by our economic and social ties.

There is a nexus between defence, security and the economy.

Since the tragic events of September 11, 2001, we have sought to balance legitimate concerns about security with the need to maintain the open border that is central to the prosperity of our countries.

As I indicated to Secretary Clinton, we want a border that is open to trade but closed to crime and terrorism.

Two-way trade in goods crosses the Canada–U.S. border at the rate of 1.7 billion dollars per day - well over a million dollars a minute. More than 7 million U.S. jobs are supported by trade with Canada.

However, the ‘thickening’ of the border to address security threats has raised legitimate concerns about the impact on trade and the movement of people, and is an area where we will continue to work with the United States as a key priority.

### The Arctic

Another one of my priorities is to continue taking leadership on the Canadian Arctic and on issues unfolding in the Arctic. I will discuss this with each members of the Arctic Council this year, the United States, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway Sweden and Russia.

The Arctic is a fundamental part of Canada, a part of our heritage, our economy, and our identity as country.

We are an Arctic power.

Nous avons l'intention de continuer à chercher des moyens de renforcer notre collaboration et notre coopération avec les États-Unis, notre plus proche partenaire dans l'Arctique, en particulier pour préserver et améliorer la qualité de vie des habitants du Nord.

Nous avons des préoccupations communes au sujet de l'impact des changements climatiques, de l'exploitation des ressources et de la sécurité dans le Nord.

Nous nous en tenons à nos positions respectives sur la question de savoir si les voies navigables canadiennes qui composent le Passage du Nord-Ouest sont un détroit fréquenté par la navigation internationale.

Le Canada soutient qu'elles font partie de ses eaux intérieures et qu'aucun droit de passage ne s'y applique.

Mais ni notre propriété ni notre souveraineté ne sont contestées à propos du Passage.

Et notre désaccord ne nous empêche certainement pas de coopérer avec les États-Unis, ce qui montre bien la maturité de nos relations bilatérales.

Nos organismes d'application de la loi, par exemple, coordonnent leurs activités dans l'Arctique.

Notre gouvernement conservateur comprend bien le potentiel du Nord, plus qu'aucun gouvernement avant lui. Mon collègue le ministre de la Défense achètera bientôt de nouveaux navires de patrouille extracôtiers de l'Arctique.

Et également la Garde côtière canadienne achètera un nouveau brise-glace de classe polaire qui portera le nom du très honorable John G. Diefenbaker. Notre gouvernement construira en outre des installations de ravitaillement et d'amarrage en eau profonde de l'Arctique à Nanisivik.

### Terrorism

As you know, our two countries have long shared a common objective in combating terrorism through our efforts in the G8, the United Nations and other multinational fora.

On a bilateral basis, our joint efforts to fight cross border crime and address terrorism engages a broad range of agencies and levels of government on both sides of the border.

In both cases, the breadth and depth of our cooperation reflects shared security interests and high levels of trust.

We are looking forward to working closely with the new U.S. Administration and our other international partners as we continue to address the threats of terrorism and transnational crime.

Canada and the U.S. have an equally proud tradition of close cooperation on defence and security issues overseas.

We have worked together overseas as part of an approach that involves:

- defending ourselves against threats to our security long before they materialize on our shores;
- cooperating with allies with whom we share interests and values; and,
- assisting the victims of external aggression, or internal repression.

As responsible members of the international community, we have helped shouldered the hard work of international peace and security, as well as the painstaking work of democracy and human rights.

If we are to continue to protect North America we must act effectively, consistent with our national interests, to detect, deter, disrupt, and defeat military and terrorist threats as far from our borders as possible.

## NATO

NATO continues to be a pillar of our international security policy.

As set out in the North Atlantic Treaty, NATO embodies a “common commitment to safeguard the freedom, common heritage and civilization [of its member states], founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law.”

Moreover, we see the Alliance as a means to develop and maintain an essential reservoir of international military capability and expertise that can be used to address the wide range of defence of security issues that are common to all NATO allies.

As the North American members of NATO, Canada and the U.S. have consistently been willing to shoulder their fair share of the burden in addressing these challenges.

## Afghanistan

Afghanistan represents a case in point.

Our soldiers, diplomats and others are at work in Kandahar, Kabul and Ottawa, focusing their efforts on security – including the training of Afghan security forces – development, and governance.

As many here will know, the seamless nature of these combined efforts is the result of the long-term investments that we have made in our capacity to work together with U.S. forces and our allies.

This same interoperability has also enabled Canada to play a significant role in conducting interdiction operations in the Persian Gulf and Arabian Sea to support the campaign against terrorism.

We welcome the review that the United States is undertaking with respect to its engagement in Afghanistan.

Like us, the U.S. wants to deliver the more secure environment required for progress on the reconstruction, development, and governance fronts – where we welcome the support of all of our international partners.

The upcoming elections scheduled to take place in late August are a case in point.

Canada is working closely with other ISAF, partners including the United States, to support the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) in their efforts to provide security throughout the elections process.

I indicated to Secretary Clinton that Canada welcomes additional U.S. troop deployments in the south.

I explained the fact that Canada has been increasing its civilian presence in the field for over a year now and that there is still a greater need for additional civilians in order to achieve Afghan goals of governance and self-reliance.

That is why Canada welcomes the U.S. decision to also increase its civilian presence in Afghanistan.

We discussed how Canada and the U.S. can best collaborate in Kandahar.

Canada has a lot of experience in Kandahar, and I shared with Secretary of State Clinton the lessons we've learned in the areas of training the Afghan National Police, border management and reconstruction and development work more broadly.

### Mexico and the Americas

Plus près de chez nous, les États-Unis et le Canada partagent des intérêts communs à l'égard des Amériques. Nous collaborons étroitement sur des enjeux communs de sécurité.

Le Mexique, l'Amérique centrale et les Antilles sont vulnérables à une multitude de menaces à la sécurité, dont le trafic des stupéfiants, les migrations illégales, la criminalité organisée, la violence des gangs et les catastrophes naturelles.

Ces problèmes sont des facteurs d'instabilité et de désordre dans des pays déjà fragiles.

Ils peuvent même déstabiliser des régions entières et menacer les Canadiens et les Américains, tant chez eux qu'à l'étranger.

Le Mexique occupe une place à part à cet égard, étant à la fois un partenaire nord-américain et un partenaire stratégique du Canada dans les Amériques.

Le sommet des leaders nord-américains, qui réunit le Canada, les États-Unis et le Mexique, aide à cimenter le partenariat nord-américain.

We are also working with partners to ensure the success of the Fifth Summit of the Americas this April in Trinidad and Tobago.

This will be the first time that this hemispheric forum is held in the Caribbean, a region with deep and long-standing ties to Canada - including significant co-operation in defence and security.

We are also making contributions at the operational level.

For example, the Canadian Forces have contributed maritime patrol aircraft and naval assets in support of U.S.-led multinational counter-drug operations in the Caribbean Basin and the eastern Pacific Ocean.

### Non-Proliferation

There are other global issues where the Canada-U.S. dialogue will be important – to coordinate our respective roles, and as part of building the broad consensus that we need to achieve our shared goals.

One of those is non-proliferation.

There will be significant global interest in the new U.S. administration's positions on non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament issues particularly in light of the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference and the possibility of future talks with Russia on nuclear disarmament.

We are anticipating significant discussion and dialogue on these issues among allies and partners in the G8, in NATO and at the UN Conference on Disarmament.

Canada and the U.S. have a common stake in strengthening the non-proliferation regime – and are willing to support our goals with resources such as through our Global Partnership Program.

For example, Canada and the United States funded the dismantlement of a Typhoon-class strategic submarine in Russia's Arctic, and work on a second strategic submarine will begin shortly.

Last month, I announced that Canada will contribute \$10 million toward U.S. efforts to detect and secure dangerous nuclear and radiological materials in Russia and Ukraine.

Those projects are good examples of how Canada and the United States are working closely together to move the non-proliferation agenda forward and prevent terrorists from acquiring dangerous materials.

## Conclusion

Over the past 70 years, Canada and the United States have developed a robust, mature security and defence relationship.

At enormous human and financial cost, we have fought together in two World Wars, in Korea, the Gulf War, and today, work together in Afghanistan.

Today, the new Administration in the United States has a new and strong voice.

It is incumbent upon us to listen to that voice, to respond frankly, to find ways forward that advance Canadian interests and build a better partnership with our neighbour to the South.

Thank you.

Merci