Mr. Prime Minister, one of your most illustrious predecessors, Lester Pearson, put it well when he said, “I now accept with equanimity the question so constantly addressed to me, ‘Are you an American?’ and merely return the accurate answer, Yes, I am a Canadian.”

And so tonight in celebrating our countries and what unites us, let us work together and let us say: Long live Canada! Vive le Canada!

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 8:35 p.m. at the Museum of Civilization. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and his wife, Aline; U.S. Ambassador to Canada James Blanchard and his wife, Janet; and Canadian Ambassador to the United States Raymond Chrétien and his wife, Kay. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Executive Order 12951—Release of Imagery Acquired by Space-Based National Intelligence Reconnaissance Systems

February 22, 1995

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America and in order to release certain scientifically or environmentally useful imagery acquired by space-based national intelligence reconnaissance systems, consistent with the national security, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Public Release of Historical Intelligence Imagery. Imagery acquired by the space-based national intelligence reconnaissance systems known as the Corona, Argon, and Lanyard missions shall, within 18 months of the date of this order, be declassified and transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration with a copy sent to the United States Geological Survey of the Department of the Interior consistent with procedures approved by the Director of Central Intelligence and the Archivist of the United States. Upon transfer, such imagery shall be deemed declassified and shall be made available to the public.

Sec. 2. Review for Future Public Release of Intelligence Imagery. (a) All information that meets the criteria in section 2(b) of this order shall be kept secret in the interests of national defense and foreign policy until deemed otherwise by the Director of Central Intelligence. In consultation with the Secretaries of State and Defense, the Director of Central Intelligence shall establish a comprehensive program for the periodic review of imagery from systems other than the Corona, Argon, and Lanyard missions, with the objective of making available to the public as much imagery as possible consistent with the interests of national defense and foreign policy. For imagery from obsolete broad-area film-return systems other than Corona, Argon, and Lanyard missions, this review shall be completed within 5 years of the date of this order. Review of imagery from any other system that the Director of Central Intelligence deems to be obsolete shall be accomplished according to a timetable established by the Director of Central Intelligence. The Director of Central Intelligence shall report annually to the President on the implementation of this order.

(b) The criteria referred to in section 2(a) of this order consist of the following: imagery acquired by a space-based national intelligence reconnaissance system other than the Corona, Argon, and Lanyard missions.

Sec. 3. General Provisions. (a) This order prescribes a comprehensive and exclusive system for the public release of imagery acquired by space-based national intelligence reconnaissance systems. This order is the exclusive Executive order governing the public release of imagery for purposes of section 552(b)(1) of the Freedom of Information Act.

(b) Nothing contained in this order shall create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable by any party against the United States, its agencies or instrumentalities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

Sec. 4. Definition. As used herein, “imagery” means the product acquired by space-based national intelligence reconnaissance systems that provides a likeness or representation of any natural or man-made feature or related objective or activities and satellite

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 2:13 p.m., February 24, 1995]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 24, and it will be published in the Federal Register on February 28.

Exchange With Reporters at the Canadian Parliament in Ottawa
February 24, 1995

Secretary of State Christopher

Q. Mr. President, how did you find Secretary Christopher?

The President. He was doing well this morning. I had a great talk with him. And he feels good, and he's going to go home with us this afternoon.

Q. Will he be able to get back to work soon?

The President. I'm encouraged.

Q. Would it affect the Mideast trip at all, sir?

Q. [Inaudible]—that's what gave him the ulcer? [Laughter]

The President. Gee, I hope not. [Laughter]

NOTE: The exchange began at 10:30 a.m. at the Parliament. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

The President’s News Conference With Prime Minister Jean Chrétien of Canada in Ottawa
February 24, 1995

Prime Minister Chrétien. Ladies and gentlemen, this concludes a great meeting between the President of the United States and myself, members of his Cabinet, and members of my Cabinet. As I had the occasion to say many times, the relations between our two countries is an example to the world. We have some problems, but we are able to work on them and find solutions.

I’m delighted, Mr. President, that the Canadians appreciate very much the relations between Canada and the United States at this moment. It was some years ago only 25 percent were happy with the quality of our relations. Now 53 percent are happy. So it’s probably more because of you than of me, but—[laughter]—I just want to say to you that it’s been, for my wife and I, a great occasion to receive your wife and you. And the bond between our two nations, I’m sure, are better because you came here.

[At this point, the Prime Minister spoke in French, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.]

It is always for us a great pleasure to welcome our neighbors to the south. We share a continent. We share history. If there have been difficulties between the United States and Canada a century and a half ago, today we are able to sit down together and to find solutions that bring about a better understanding between two neighbors where mutual respect resides and neighbors who understand that it is in working together that we can go forward.

[The Prime Minister resumed speaking in English.]

The last 15 months that I have been the Prime Minister I have had many occasions to meet with the President. It’s probably the ninth time that we are together, and we speak on the phone. But I can see the influence that the Americans have on the world scene at this moment. And it’s extremely important to keep the leadership in the world. In my traveling in Latin America, in my traveling in Asia the last few months, I realize that we’ve made some fantastic progress.

For me to see that all these countries in Asia want to be part of APEC and now of a free trade arrangement by the year 2010, and they want to work in a market economy and break down barriers and specialize and take share of the market in the best way, the way that we have developed in America and Canada over the last century is fantastic. But probably, the most significant thing that I’ve lived was when I was in Latin America and I saw this democracy, as I said this morning, getting better now and all these leaders very