

ferred to Lord David Owen and Cyrus Vance, Cochairmen of the International Conference on the former Yugoslavia; Alija Izetbegovic, President, Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina; Radovan Karadzic, leaders of the Bosnian Serbs; and Mate Boban, leader of the Bosnian Croats.

**Statement on the Planned
Resignation of Prime Minister Brian
Mulroney of Canada**

February 24, 1993

Prime Minister Mulroney and I had a good conversation following his announcement that he is stepping down as Prime Minister of Canada. Prime Minister Mulroney has been a good friend and partner of the United States, and I wish him well. The Free Trade Agreement, the NAFTA, and Canada's voice in helping to move the world into a more hopeful era are all testimony to his leadership and courage.

It was a pleasure to meet with the Prime Minister earlier this month and to speak with him several times since my election. I greatly appreciated the Prime Minister's insight and wise counsel in tackling the common challenges of promoting world economic growth and peace. My meeting with him reinforced my conviction that Canadian engagement in world affairs remains as vital as ever. That our meeting was my first as President underscores the close relationship between our two countries. Our enduring friendship is based on the common vision we share of peace and democratic principles. From peacekeepers in Bosnia and Somalia to partnership in the G-7 and in NATO, Canada has been a true global ally. Both our people benefit from our important trading relationship, with \$200 billion in goods and services alone exchanged each year.

Our steadfast relationship with Canada is an indispensable element in the essential continuity of American foreign policy. As the Prime Minister and the people of Canada prepare for the road ahead, I want them to know that the United States is and will remain their friend and partner. Our cooperation will continue to grow in the years ahead.

**Remarks to Business and Labor
Leaders on Support for the
Economic Plan and an Exchange
With Reporters**

February 25, 1993

The President. Thank you very much. To all the business and the labor leaders who are here, and to Representative Clayton and the many Members of the House whom she represents so ably. Let me begin with a simple thank you to all of you for your support of our common efforts to turn our country around and put our Nation on the right track.

For too long we have seen business and labor divided over more issues than we see them united on. Part of that has been occasioned by the incredible difficulties of our economy. When people believe there is a shrinking pie, they're more likely to be fighting over that. Part of that has been occasioned by the fact that we have not been on a great national journey together in which we could all feel that we were a part, making our equal contributions, reaping our equal rewards.

I'm very encouraged by the business-labor partnership that we see manifested here today, by the fact that it represents a commitment to ending gridlock and to beginning change, and deeply impressed by the letter which Representative Clayton has brought here today by the people whom I think in many ways are most representatives of the American people: this new big class of freshmen Congress men and women who are out there, just as Vice President Gore and I were last year, criss-crossing the country in a beginning effort, listening to people and their concerns and their hopes. So I'm very, very happy about that.

If I might, I'd like to close just by emphasizing three or four of the critical elements of this economic plan and why I think they are worthy of the support of this distinguished group of Americans. Everyone knows we have to bring the deficit down; it has become the dominant fact of all the budgeting of the Federal Government. But there are those who say, "Well, how can you