

Brief Speech to NATO Association  
June 20, 2016  
Toronto, Canada

"My honour at having the privilege of thanking Prime Minister Mulroney for his inspiring and deeply compelling speech this evening is twofold:

First, as Prime Minister, he supported the political and strategic goals of NATO and the free world with a steadfast integrity and courage that served the interests of Canada, our NATO allies and other countries in support of freedom and democracy.

Second, whenever there were innocent civilians to protect in places like the former Yugoslavia, or invaded countries to liberate like Kuwait, or humanitarian and security challenges in places like Haiti, our special guest deployed our Canadian Forces in a manner that brought honour to Canada and desperately needed help to people in distress.

He also stood firmly with NATO leaders like British prime ministers Margaret Thatcher and John Major and US presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush Sr to face down the faltering and corrupt Soviet Union – the demise of which lifted the famous Iron Curtain, allowed new democracies to flourish in Eastern Europe and added to ranks of NATO member countries.

Tonight, I am honoured to establish a new tradition, never before engaged by the Atlantic Council or the NATO Association of Canada. As a former MP and Minister of Defence from a rival political tradition, and on behalf of the NATO Association board of directors, I am very pleased to award Prime Minister Brian Mulroney the first ever Life Time Fellowship in the half century of this organization's history.

Congratulations, Sir, it is very richly deserved.

(presentation of mounted certificate)

Thank you."