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The Economy, Security, and Sovereignty in a North American Context - Introduction

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Our speaker today is a long time personal friend of mind, a very dear friend. He is a trustee of the Canada/U.S. Law Institute and has done about anything everyone could want in fulfillment in life. He has a very distinctive degree from the University of Paris, University of Toronto. He has also been a senior partner at a firm where I was a client of his, Fasken & Calvin in Toronto. For my money, he did a wonderful job on the work we had assigned to him.

He has been a member of Parliament. In 1993, he was appointed Administrator of Foreign Affairs. From January of 2002, he has served as Chairman of the House of Commons Standing Committee of Foreign Affairs International trade. Under his Chairmanship, the committee produced important reports including Canada's interest in the world trade interest organization, Canada's role in Kosovo, and the Summit of Americas in Quebec City. There is also one report that is very dear to me. It is the implementation of legislation for the International Criminal Court, a subject not unknown to me.

He has a biography we could spend all afternoon reading. I want to have you hear him in person. So I introduce with great pleasure and a bright honor, Bill Graham, my dear friend to you here today. Bill, the floor is yours.