

WEBVTT

00:00:03.400 --> 00:00:09.780

<v SPEAKER_1>Hello again, and welcome to Global Exchange, part of the Canadian Global Affairs Institute's Podcast Network.

00:00:09.780 --> 00:00:11.780

<v SPEAKER_1>I'm your host, Colin Robertson.

00:00:11.780 --> 00:00:25.780

<v SPEAKER_1>On this episode that we were recording on March the 8th, we talked with Francisco Suarez about Mexico, Canada, and our approach to the, well, you call it what you want, the USMCA, TMECH, or CASMA review.

00:00:25.780 --> 00:00:32.000

<v SPEAKER_1>Francisco Suarez, a CGA Alumni Fellow, served as Mexican Ambassador to Canada.

00:00:32.000 --> 00:00:41.340

<v SPEAKER_1>He previously served as Mexican Ambassador to the OECD, the representative to the International Monetary Fund, and is Undersecretary of the Mexican Finance Ministry.

00:00:41.340 --> 00:00:43.660

<v SPEAKER_1>Francisco, welcome back.

00:00:43.660 --> 00:00:44.000

<v SPEAKER_2>Thank you.

00:00:44.000 --> 00:00:44.640

<v SPEAKER_2>Thank you very much.

00:00:44.640 --> 00:00:48.340

<v SPEAKER_2>A pleasure to speak to you and with my Canadian friends.

00:00:48.340 --> 00:00:48.660

<v SPEAKER_1>Yes.

00:00:48.660 --> 00:00:51.680

<v SPEAKER_1>Well, the Canadian friends are looking forward to what you have to say.

00:00:51.680 --> 00:00:53.700

<v SPEAKER_1>Some context for listeners.

00:00:53.700 --> 00:00:58.240

<v SPEAKER_1>As we all know, the CUSMAs, we call it in Canada, is up for review this year.

00:00:58.240 --> 00:01:13.800

<v SPEAKER_1>Negotiations have effectively begun on related issues, migration, drugs, energy, agriculture involving Mexico, and for Canada, all of those, as well as lumber, steel, aluminum, and the border, as I mentioned.

00:01:13.800 --> 00:01:28.200

<v SPEAKER_1>Prime Minister Carney has twice met with President Claudia Scheinbaum, first at the Cananascis G7 last year, and then for a visit to Mexico City, and the two leaders have pledged to work together to preserve the North American partnership.

00:01:28.200 --> 00:01:38.880

<v SPEAKER_1>Minister Dominic LeBlanc, who's leading the Canadian trade negotiations, led the biggest trade mission we've seen yet to Mexico City just a few weeks ago.

00:01:38.880 --> 00:01:46.820

<v SPEAKER_1>So let's get started, and to no surprise, my first question to you, Francisco, is you've looked at the Canada-Mexico relationship for a number of years.

00:01:47.200 --> 00:01:51.540

<v SPEAKER_1>How would you assess it today, and what more needs to be done?

00:01:51.540 --> 00:02:03.780

<v SPEAKER_2>Well, I think really for the last seven years, I'm sad to say that Mexico had really neglected this very strategic and very important relationship with Canada.

00:02:03.780 --> 00:02:21.280

<v SPEAKER_2>I think for the past seven years, I think our government has been too entangled with domestic, political, and social issues, and they practice a bit of international isolationist, and they participated very little in international meetings.

00:02:21.960 --> 00:02:36.300

<v SPEAKER_2>I think I very much regret it, and I was a bit in a personal crusade to say that Canada relationship is strategically very important for us, even more so now that we have negotiations for our trade treaty.

00:02:37.280 --> 00:02:39.500

<v SPEAKER_2>But it was a policy of neglect.

00:02:39.500 --> 00:02:46.740

<v SPEAKER_2>Now, I think, fortunately, things are changing very quickly in a positive sense.

00:02:46.740 --> 00:02:53.140

<v SPEAKER_2>I must recognize that it's been really thanks to the very positive Canadian efforts.

00:02:53.680 --> 00:03:00.360

<v SPEAKER_2>As you mentioned, I had the pleasure of meeting your Prime Minister Cardinal when he was in Mexico.

00:03:00.360 --> 00:03:03.640

<v SPEAKER_2>It was a very successful visit.

00:03:03.640 --> 00:03:11.940

<v SPEAKER_2>Besides it being a good visit, it set up an action plan.

00:03:11.940 --> 00:03:17.360

<v SPEAKER_2>What's more important is together with an action plan, a group to follow it up.

00:03:17.360 --> 00:03:25.400

<v SPEAKER_2>I think that was a very important change in this policy of neglect.

00:03:25.400 --> 00:03:44.960

<v SPEAKER_2>Then also, I think we were very impressed by the mission led by Minister LeBlanc, which I think was the largest Canadian trade mission, with a large number of all the relevant businessmen and cabinet people.

00:03:45.260 --> 00:03:51.880

<v SPEAKER_2>I think that is putting back our relationship on the right track.

00:03:51.880 --> 00:03:55.420

<v SPEAKER_2>I think now we can look in a very positive way.

00:03:55.420 --> 00:04:01.900

<v SPEAKER_2>We will later comment on the great impact that Carney's speech at Davos had in Mexico.

00:04:02.400 --> 00:04:04.980

<v SPEAKER_2>And that again is a very positive step.

00:04:04.980 --> 00:04:11.780

<v SPEAKER_2>So I think after seven years of neglect, I think we're putting things back in the right track.

00:04:11.780 --> 00:04:19.000

<v SPEAKER_2>And I think largely we have to recognize and appreciate Canadian strategic efforts.

00:04:19.000 --> 00:04:22.100

<v SPEAKER_1>Francisco, personal relations matter.

00:04:22.100 --> 00:04:28.840

<v SPEAKER_1>And my impression was that AML0, your former president, wasn't terribly interested in international affairs.

00:04:28.900 --> 00:04:32.660

<v SPEAKER_1>And as you say, focused on the domestic situation within Mexico.

00:04:32.660 --> 00:04:41.920

<v SPEAKER_1>But with Claudia Scheinbaum, one has the impression that she's more interested in the international relationships that Mexico has.

00:04:41.920 --> 00:04:52.620

<v SPEAKER_1>And although perhaps with not the same vigor as Mark Carney, who comes out of these things from a different perspective, almost your perspective as a central banker and an economist.

00:04:54.000 --> 00:05:12.560

<v SPEAKER_1>But my impression is that certainly from the Canadian side, there isn't a once again an appreciation of the Canada-Mexico relationship, and that on the Mexican side, as you say, there is at least a greater reciprocity and perhaps an appreciation of the Canada-Mexico relationship.

00:05:12.560 --> 00:05:14.120

<v SPEAKER_1>Is that fair?

00:05:14.120 --> 00:05:14.920

<v SPEAKER_2>Absolutely.

00:05:14.920 --> 00:05:15.760

<v SPEAKER_2>No, I think you're right.

00:05:15.820 --> 00:05:26.640

<v SPEAKER_2>I think President López Obrador was on record saying that the best foreign policy was a good domestic policy.

00:05:27.200 --> 00:05:32.340

<v SPEAKER_2>He had neither a good domestic policy nor a foreign policy.

00:05:32.340 --> 00:05:43.200

<v SPEAKER_2>I think President Shane Malk, which is a university professor in physics, speaks English fluently, and I think that has helped very much.

00:05:45.040 --> 00:05:49.220

<v SPEAKER_2>Still, generally speaking, there are many issues in Mexico.

00:05:49.220 --> 00:05:55.900

<v SPEAKER_2>And still, I think she has to go more out towards international concerns.

00:05:55.900 --> 00:06:03.660

<v SPEAKER_2>She has not attended most of the important international meetings, like the G20 or whatever.

00:06:03.660 --> 00:06:11.880

<v SPEAKER_2>But I think she's reacting very positively, I think, to the positive attitude of Prime Minister Cardenas.

00:06:11.920 --> 00:06:13.600

<v SPEAKER_2>So I think things will change.

00:06:13.600 --> 00:06:17.420

<v SPEAKER_2>But it's imperative, I think, well, where would we go from now?

00:06:17.420 --> 00:06:34.400

<v SPEAKER_2>It's imperative that President Shane Baume herself lead a visit to Ottawa with Mexican business leaders and the main members of his cabinet to follow up and reciprocate to the Canadian visit.

00:06:34.400 --> 00:06:40.060

<v SPEAKER_2>By the way, we also had a visit by the Canadian governor.

00:06:40.800 --> 00:06:43.840

<v SPEAKER_1>The governor general came down, Mary Simon, yes.

00:06:43.840 --> 00:06:47.080

<v SPEAKER_2>That was again a step in the right direction.

00:06:47.080 --> 00:06:48.400

<v SPEAKER_2>Now she has to follow up.

00:06:48.400 --> 00:06:49.480

<v SPEAKER_2>She has to go to Canada.

00:06:49.480 --> 00:06:53.120

<v SPEAKER_2>I think we're trying to press everybody.

00:06:53.300 --> 00:06:57.800

<v SPEAKER_2>What's important, I think, a key to all these, I think, is the business sector.

00:06:57.800 --> 00:07:06.720

<v SPEAKER_2>I think the business sector in Mexico is completely in favor of a trilateral relationship and of a good relation with Canada.

00:07:06.760 --> 00:07:12.640

<v SPEAKER_2>So the business sector has been, our business councils have been meeting with people from your Canadian business council.

00:07:12.640 --> 00:07:16.400

<v SPEAKER_2>So the businessmen are going to be very important.

00:07:16.400 --> 00:07:24.280

<v SPEAKER_2>I think that's where we're getting the main support from President Trump's changing views all the time.

00:07:24.280 --> 00:07:28.840

<v SPEAKER_2>I think the think tanks are playing an important role.

00:07:29.180 --> 00:07:42.900

<v SPEAKER_2>In today's main newspaper, they make comments that Minister LeBlanc and Deputy Secretary for North America, which is Mr.

00:07:42.900 --> 00:07:58.860

<v SPEAKER_2>Belasco, apparently they published both an article in the Brookings Institution Journal, and both speaking about the importance of strengthening the competitiveness of North America.

00:07:58.860 --> 00:07:59.700

<v SPEAKER_1>Yes.

00:07:59.700 --> 00:08:06.800

<v SPEAKER_1>Brookings put out a report last week looking forward with, as they put it, USMCA 2026 forward.

00:08:06.800 --> 00:08:11.580

<v SPEAKER_1>They had a conference and I did see Dominic LeBlanc had a piece as well as I think Mr.

00:08:11.580 --> 00:08:12.020

<v SPEAKER_1>Belasco.

00:08:12.980 --> 00:08:13.800

<v SPEAKER_1>So that's encouraging.

00:08:13.800 --> 00:08:25.140

<v SPEAKER_1>So what you're saying is the business community is still very much in favor of the trilateral relationship, and in particular, renewing the ties between Canada and Mexico.

00:08:25.140 --> 00:08:34.040

<v SPEAKER_1>Because that's, as you know, when you were ambassador, we had significant investment in the Canadian bread, as I recall.

00:08:34.040 --> 00:08:38.540

<v SPEAKER_1>But beyond that, we didn't have a lot of Mexican investment in Canada.

00:08:39.300 --> 00:08:50.300

<v SPEAKER_1>The investment tended to be flowing more from Canada into Mexico in areas of mining, banking, energy, financial services.

00:08:52.660 --> 00:08:55.580

<v SPEAKER_2>No, I think there's much to do.

00:08:55.580 --> 00:09:05.240

<v SPEAKER_2>But I think I recently wrote an article saying of the very broad base of a relationship that we have with Canada, which is a good starting point.

00:09:05.320 --> 00:09:08.560

<v SPEAKER_2>I think the potential is there.

00:09:08.560 --> 00:09:11.340

<v SPEAKER_2>There's a vast unrealized potential.

00:09:11.340 --> 00:09:19.880

<v SPEAKER_2>We have something like a combined trade of 35 billion, which I think is very, very small compared to what it should be.

00:09:19.880 --> 00:09:28.780

<v SPEAKER_2>But on tourism, there are two million Canadians that visit us every year, half a million Mexicans visit Canada.

00:09:28.780 --> 00:09:35.780

<v SPEAKER_2>There's a very strong relationship at the level of the universities, a very good scholarship program.

00:09:35.780 --> 00:09:49.680

<v SPEAKER_2>I think another very important feature, I think probably one of the most successful bilateral programs, and a good example that we should follow up with the American friends, is the temporary agricultural workers program.

00:09:49.680 --> 00:09:55.360

<v SPEAKER_2>That benefits something like 30,000 Mexican families, and that's working well.

00:09:56.440 --> 00:10:04.260

<v SPEAKER_2>There's a broad base on different areas from which we can expand.

00:10:04.260 --> 00:10:04.780
<v SPEAKER_1>Exactly.

00:10:04.780 --> 00:10:12.860
<v SPEAKER_1>As I recall, the temporary worker program, I think if I'm correct, when you were ambassador, didn't it mark its 40th anniversary?

00:10:13.160 --> 00:10:22.800
<v SPEAKER_1>It's been a long-standing and I think generally seem to be quite a well-run program that benefits both Canada and Mexico.

00:10:22.800 --> 00:10:23.360
<v SPEAKER_2>Absolutely.

00:10:23.640 --> 00:10:27.560
<v SPEAKER_2>I think it's a model example of cooperation.

00:10:27.680 --> 00:10:32.400
<v SPEAKER_2>I think it does work extremely well and with a great deal of fairness.

00:10:32.400 --> 00:10:35.180
<v SPEAKER_2>I think it's been very effective.

00:10:35.980 --> 00:10:38.360
<v SPEAKER_1>What you want to also underline is the people-to-people ties.

00:10:38.360 --> 00:11:02.840
<v SPEAKER_1>Of course, the Canadian tourists that go down and the Mexicans that, I know not in the same numbers, but there's also I think probably more we could be doing between universities and encouragement of those in Mexico who would like to study in North America and perhaps aren't as comfortable going to the United States right now, but Canadian universities, I think could be more receptive.

00:11:02.840 --> 00:11:05.080
<v SPEAKER_1>Is that something that we should be looking at?

00:11:05.780 --> 00:11:07.680
<v SPEAKER_2>I think it's a very good opportunity.

00:11:07.680 --> 00:11:23.340
<v SPEAKER_2>I think the problems that foreign students are having in the United States, I think it's a very good opportunity for there to be more Mexican university students at your great universities.

00:11:23.340 --> 00:11:42.820

<v SPEAKER_2>Before I became ambassador, I made an example of this because one of my two sons, one of them studied in Ashbury College, other one was extremely useful experience, and the other one studied at the University of Toronto Business Program, and he's currently working as an economist in Scotiabank.

00:11:44.240 --> 00:11:50.660

<v SPEAKER_2>So I'm a living example of the usefulness of the relationship.

00:11:51.260 --> 00:11:56.440

<v SPEAKER_2>I think there are a couple of issues where I think we have to move forward.

00:11:56.440 --> 00:12:09.120

<v SPEAKER_2>For example, at the institutional level, I have highlighted that it's a pity that Canada did not join initially the North American Development Bank, the so-called NADBank.

00:12:09.120 --> 00:12:32.680

<v SPEAKER_2>I think the NADBank could play a very important role as the European Development Banks have in terms, not only it was initiated to work very much at the border infrastructure, but I think it would work to finance the development of regions which are of importance to both Canada and Mexico.

00:12:32.680 --> 00:12:39.900

<v SPEAKER_2>Mining regions, for example, Canada plays a dominant role in the Mexican mining industry.

00:12:40.560 --> 00:12:50.880

<v SPEAKER_2>I think it would help because that bank could borrow the international markets with a guarantee of the three governments.

00:12:50.880 --> 00:12:55.780

<v SPEAKER_2>Now that governments have a tight fiscal situation, it could play a very important role.

00:12:56.100 --> 00:13:20.620

<v SPEAKER_2>I think it's a pity that everybody rejected the idea of a Brussels-type bureaucracy, but it's a pity that the US-Mexico-Canada agreement does not have a permanent secretary at a high level, which would be promoting and executing some of these ideas.

00:13:20.620 --> 00:13:42.100

<v SPEAKER_1>Well, you talked earlier, you made reference to Prime Minister Carney's speech at Davos, in which he talked about coalitions of the willing and basically middle powers like Canada and Mexico coming together on issues of specific concern and doing things, not worrying about having everybody present, but simply those of interest.

00:13:42.400 --> 00:13:48.140

<v SPEAKER_1>I'm struck by your observation that the Davos speech struck a chord in Mexico.

00:13:50.540 --> 00:13:56.360

<v SPEAKER_2>There are many, many people that have been commenting the Carney speech.

00:13:56.360 --> 00:13:58.520

<v SPEAKER_2>It really made an impact in Mexico.

00:13:59.060 --> 00:14:06.540

<v SPEAKER_2>It received attention over all the newspapers, the business groups, the university groups.

00:14:06.540 --> 00:14:12.660

<v SPEAKER_2>I think one is just referring to as the Carney doctrine.

00:14:13.160 --> 00:14:22.040

<v SPEAKER_2>I think that two issues strike out among the many, many catch phrases that he had.

00:14:28.300 --> 00:14:32.780

<v SPEAKER_2>The idea of a strategic autonomy, I think that strikes a chord.

00:14:32.780 --> 00:14:39.940

<v SPEAKER_2>Strategic autonomy means that we have to strengthen our domestic economy to move forward.

00:14:40.600 --> 00:14:46.020

<v SPEAKER_2>As he put it, so that integration is not subordination.

00:14:47.140 --> 00:14:51.940

<v SPEAKER_2>And so I think that the idea, two ideas strike out.

00:14:51.940 --> 00:14:56.160

<v SPEAKER_2>The strategic autonomy, we have to practice it, strengthen our economy.

00:14:56.160 --> 00:15:09.300

<v SPEAKER_2>And I think that Canada can play a useful role because those areas we are falling behind is where Canada excels, which is agriculture and food production, grains, basic grains, obviously.

00:15:09.820 --> 00:15:16.760

<v SPEAKER_2>Infrastructure, obviously, and advanced technology.

00:15:16.760 --> 00:15:22.440

<v SPEAKER_2>I think those areas where we can work together.

00:15:23.840 --> 00:15:37.320

<v SPEAKER_2>But the other idea is this idea of the alliance, or a coalition of the willing, an alliance between intermediate powers.

00:15:37.320 --> 00:15:47.660

<v SPEAKER_2>I think Canada is clearly an intermediate power, and I think so is Mexico.

00:15:47.660 --> 00:16:03.240

<v SPEAKER_2>So I think that one point there is that we have to work as Canada and Mexico in this concept of a strategic alliance, with the concept of Prime Minister Carney, of there being variable geometry.

00:16:04.080 --> 00:16:08.720

<v SPEAKER_2>In different cases, there will be different topics, but we have to work at that.

00:16:08.720 --> 00:16:13.500

<v SPEAKER_2>And I think we have to go beyond between Canada and Mexico.

00:16:13.500 --> 00:16:24.140

<v SPEAKER_2>We have to go beyond the USMCA, and to establish a strategic alliance over a broad front of issues that we share.

00:16:24.140 --> 00:16:28.320

<v SPEAKER_2>For example, I think Canada has a stake in Cuba.

00:16:28.320 --> 00:16:30.020

<v SPEAKER_2>Mexico has a stake in Cuba.

00:16:30.020 --> 00:16:35.140

<v SPEAKER_2>We have to work together to help solve the issues that Canada has.

00:16:35.140 --> 00:16:38.060

<v SPEAKER_2>And perhaps we're better prepared than the Americans themselves.

00:16:38.060 --> 00:16:42.900

<v SPEAKER_2>So I think it's important that you join the Pacific Alliance.

00:16:44.220 --> 00:16:52.240

<v SPEAKER_2>I know that a Canadian think tank has made a long-term proposal to strengthen the relationship between Latin America.

00:16:52.240 --> 00:17:04.660

<v SPEAKER_2>So there are many issues where we could construct an alliance, a strategic alliance with Canada, regardless of what happens in the USMCA negotiations.

00:17:05.760 --> 00:17:09.160

<v SPEAKER_3>Hi, I'm Dave Perry, the President and CEO of the Canadian Global Affairs Institute.

00:17:09.160 --> 00:17:13.780

<v SPEAKER_3>I hope you're enjoying The Global Exchange, Canada's leading podcast on foreign affairs and trade.

00:17:13.780 --> 00:17:22.640

<v SPEAKER_3>If you're listening and you'd like to help us keep bringing informed discussion of these issues to key government decision-makers, thought leaders and the business community, then consider sponsoring the podcast.

00:17:22.640 --> 00:17:27.880

<v SPEAKER_3>Reach out to us at contact at cgai.ca for options and pricing.

00:17:29.020 --> 00:17:33.880

<v SPEAKER_1>I think this is all exactly right, and it's certainly in alignment with what Mr.

00:17:33.880 --> 00:17:35.060

<v SPEAKER_1>Carney is talking about.

00:17:35.060 --> 00:17:43.920

<v SPEAKER_1>Look, we've circled around this, but let me ask you, where is Mexico at with the renewal of our North American partnership?

00:17:44.100 --> 00:17:49.840

<v SPEAKER_1>As we call it, TMEK or CUSMA, but our USMCA is the American's part.

00:17:49.980 --> 00:17:53.920

<v SPEAKER_1>Where are you in terms of your negotiations with the United States?

00:17:53.920 --> 00:18:05.700

<v SPEAKER_1>Because I know that their preliminary negotiations have essentially begun, and I would just wonder where Mexico is in terms of theirs, because it's daily fare up here in Canada.

00:18:05.700 --> 00:18:10.700

<v SPEAKER_1>Of course, as you know, the relationship with the United States is tenuous at best.

00:18:12.020 --> 00:18:12.300

<v SPEAKER_2>Right.

00:18:12.300 --> 00:18:20.400

<v SPEAKER_2>Well, I think Mexico is clearly in favor of a trilateral approach.

00:18:25.660 --> 00:18:27.360

<v SPEAKER_2>For a free trade agreement.

00:18:27.360 --> 00:18:30.260

<v SPEAKER_2>I think we clearly view the trilateral approach.

00:18:30.260 --> 00:19:03.800

<v SPEAKER_2>For us, and I was a witness to that, it came clear that crucial to what was the agreement on NAFTA was because President Salinas and Prime Minister Mulroney were of the clear view that trilateralism and the participation of both Canada and Mexico would help to moderate the existing asymmetries that existed between our economies and that we could work together at the common agenda.

00:19:03.800 --> 00:19:08.940

<v SPEAKER_2>And I think history has proved right to what Salinas and Mulroney built upon.

00:19:08.940 --> 00:19:13.020

<v SPEAKER_2>So Mexico is clearly for a trilateral free trade agreement.

00:19:13.020 --> 00:19:23.220

<v SPEAKER_2>President Schoenbaum is absolutely in favor of the trilateral free trade agreement as an essential part of our development strategy and policy.

00:19:23.220 --> 00:19:29.340

<v SPEAKER_2>But now, I think we're in terms of what might happen.

00:19:29.340 --> 00:19:42.040

<v SPEAKER_2>I think whether we're optimistic or not, it depends on what are the whims and on what day of the week and on what hour of the week we're talking about what Mr.

00:19:42.040 --> 00:19:43.160

<v SPEAKER_2>Trump feels.

00:19:43.160 --> 00:19:50.440

<v SPEAKER_2>Because every day and every hour he's changing his views and he's shifting from one position to another.

00:19:50.440 --> 00:19:55.320

<v SPEAKER_2>So it's a position of great uncertainty.

00:19:55.320 --> 00:19:57.500

<v SPEAKER_2>Now, I think that anything can happen.

00:19:57.640 --> 00:20:10.820

<v SPEAKER_2>I think President Trump has said that a trilateral agreement, I think to quote his words, is irrelevant.

00:20:10.820 --> 00:20:22.120

<v SPEAKER_2>And then he said that he would prefer a bilateral, two bilateral agreements because the conditions between the US and Canada and the US are different.

00:20:22.120 --> 00:20:29.060

<v SPEAKER_2>So something seems to be shifting towards a bilateral, two bilateral agreements.

00:20:29.060 --> 00:20:33.320

<v SPEAKER_2>I'm probably not liking too much the idea of a trilateral one.

00:20:33.320 --> 00:20:42.680

<v SPEAKER_2>Now, the way we certainly view it, I think is a view shared by many, is I think that probably we need to gain time.

00:20:42.680 --> 00:21:22.820

<v SPEAKER_2>And in that sense, what seems more realistic and probably better is to have what has been called a treaty which is, so what would probably happen would be to have a patched up trade treaty and I'm deliberately say patched up trade treaty, not a free trade treaty, but a patched up trade treaty that maintains some elements of protectionism as Mr.

00:21:22.820 --> 00:21:26.560

<v SPEAKER_2>Trump would want it probably to reduce them as much as possible.

00:21:26.560 --> 00:21:32.200

<v SPEAKER_2>But a treaty which would be a treaty that would be reviewed yearly.

00:21:32.200 --> 00:21:38.520

<v SPEAKER_2>And that's one of the one of the ideas that has been, that has been put forward.

00:21:40.340 --> 00:21:51.180

<v SPEAKER_2>A basically a status quo, a status quo arrangement that will be renewed yearly.

00:21:51.220 --> 00:22:11.320

<v SPEAKER_2>Perhaps what we should fight for are three things, that the zero tariff for those products that come under the rules of the present Free Trade Treaty to preserve that zero tariff for those.

00:22:11.320 --> 00:22:15.520

<v SPEAKER_2>That covers, in our view, something like 80% of our grades.

00:22:15.520 --> 00:22:25.420

<v SPEAKER_2>So that really maintains our competitiveness and I think that that's worth maintaining, worth fighting for.

00:22:25.420 --> 00:22:32.200

<v SPEAKER_2>The status of the zero tariff for goods that come under the rules of the present Trade Treaty.

00:22:32.200 --> 00:22:38.640

<v SPEAKER_2>The other one is probably we will need to have a specific agreement on the automobile sector.

00:22:38.640 --> 00:22:46.020

<v SPEAKER_2>I think that there, the American business people like the idea of an integrated chain between the three countries.

00:22:46.700 --> 00:22:47.280

<v SPEAKER_2>Clearly, Mr.

00:22:47.280 --> 00:22:56.780

<v SPEAKER_2>Trump wants an auto industry only for the American firms, excluding Canadian and Mexican participation.

00:22:56.780 --> 00:22:58.860

<v SPEAKER_2>But that doesn't go with the American private sector.

00:22:58.860 --> 00:23:05.640

<v SPEAKER_2>I think we have to go for a special agreement on the automobile sector that tries to meet our interests.

00:23:05.640 --> 00:23:10.140

<v SPEAKER_2>And probably the other thing where we need a special agreement is on the China issue.

00:23:10.140 --> 00:23:19.840

<v SPEAKER_2>Probably common rules that we should agree between the three countries as to how to handle China, not to go each way on his own.

00:23:19.840 --> 00:23:25.460

<v SPEAKER_2>So I think those ideas probably are what seem possible.

00:23:26.420 --> 00:23:34.480

<v SPEAKER_2>Our trade minister seems to be too optimistic that 95% of the issue has been solved.

00:23:34.480 --> 00:23:35.640

<v SPEAKER_2>I think it's too optimistic.

00:23:35.640 --> 00:23:38.340

<v SPEAKER_2>I think there are many unsolved issues.

00:23:38.380 --> 00:23:44.280

<v SPEAKER_2>And there's still, what will, what price, and at what cost will Mr.

00:23:44.280 --> 00:23:53.320

<v SPEAKER_2>Trump accept a trilateral agreement, even though it's a patched up, the patched up present agreement?

00:23:53.460 --> 00:23:55.300

<v SPEAKER_2>How do you see it, Colin?

00:23:55.300 --> 00:23:59.960

<v SPEAKER_1>No, I think you've given a pretty fair analysis.

00:23:59.960 --> 00:24:14.980

<v SPEAKER_1>You know, what we would like to see, obviously, would be to maintain the existing trilateral agreement, rather than going to dual bilaterals, even though we're protected because of our membership in the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership.

00:24:16.320 --> 00:24:30.360

<v SPEAKER_1>But, you know, it certainly, as you point out, you have to check the hour to figure out where the administration is on whether they want and what they want out of an agreement.

00:24:30.360 --> 00:24:39.660

<v SPEAKER_1>But it does seem clear that they've been consistent in saying, as they did the last time round, it's for Mexico and Canada to give and the United States to take.

00:24:39.660 --> 00:24:43.860

<v SPEAKER_1>And I do think that tariffs are going to be a part of whatever the deal is.

00:24:43.860 --> 00:25:02.620

<v SPEAKER_1>I do agree with you that we need to try and find a particular approach to the auto trade, which has benefited North America, not just Canada and Mexico, but it's created an industry that is competitive globally.

00:25:02.620 --> 00:25:06.500

<v SPEAKER_1>And if we break that up, I don't think it works to anybody's advantage.

00:25:06.500 --> 00:25:09.220

<v SPEAKER_1>I also think you're correct about China.

00:25:09.220 --> 00:25:12.760

<v SPEAKER_1>The Americans are pressing us on that, and you as well.

00:25:12.760 --> 00:25:31.420

<v SPEAKER_1>That's going to involve a hard look at rules of origin and it's going to put much more stress on our border surveillance, because the Americans are pretty clear that they see us both as potential broken back doors for counterfeits and other things coming in.

00:25:31.540 --> 00:25:35.060

<v SPEAKER_1>So that's going to have something to do with it.

00:25:35.060 --> 00:25:40.440

<v SPEAKER_1>Whether we can preserve the bulk of goods, we know we have a lot of support in Congress.

00:25:40.440 --> 00:25:48.780

<v SPEAKER_1>This comes through in the USTR hearings and in the hearings that the Ways and Means and the Senate Finance Committee is held.

00:25:50.220 --> 00:25:54.100

<v SPEAKER_1>But the administration comes at these things differently.

00:25:54.100 --> 00:25:59.480

<v SPEAKER_1>Of course, there's the personal element in this, and where Donald Trump is, is a big question.

00:25:59.640 --> 00:26:10.080

<v SPEAKER_1>We certainly have not found Secretaries Lipnick and Passant, or for that matter, USTR, James and Greer, particularly sympathetic towards Canada.

00:26:10.080 --> 00:26:15.720

<v SPEAKER_1>In fact, the headline in one of our daily papers today is that they hate Canada.

00:26:15.720 --> 00:26:22.420

<v SPEAKER_1>So that's a challenge for us, and certainly the relationship between Canada and the United States is at a low ebb.

00:26:22.420 --> 00:26:23.640
<v SPEAKER_1>I've never seen it as dark.

00:26:24.340 --> 00:26:29.820
<v SPEAKER_1>And as a number of my Mexican friends have said to me, well, didn't we tell you so?

00:26:29.820 --> 00:26:33.620
<v SPEAKER_1>Haven't we been telling you for years you can't really trust these guys?

00:26:33.620 --> 00:26:40.420
<v SPEAKER_1>And certainly that would be our assessment right now when it comes to the Trump administration.

00:26:40.420 --> 00:26:41.700
<v SPEAKER_1>So we all hope for better times.

00:26:41.700 --> 00:27:01.440
<v SPEAKER_1>And I think you're also correct that the longer this goes on, the closer we get to midterms, the better positioned I think we are both countries, because I do think the midterms may well see a change, at least in one house of Congress, and that may temper some enthusiasm of the Trump administration.

00:27:01.440 --> 00:27:03.900
<v SPEAKER_1>But let me look at the whole North American idea.

00:27:04.000 --> 00:27:09.840
<v SPEAKER_1>You talked not just about the North American idea, but you also talked about the continent.

00:27:09.840 --> 00:27:10.260
<v SPEAKER_1>And Mr.

00:27:10.260 --> 00:27:18.100
<v SPEAKER_1>Trump was putting more emphasis on the Western Hemisphere, but not necessarily in a way that Ronald Reagan or earlier presidents would have.

00:27:19.180 --> 00:27:24.440
<v SPEAKER_1>Canada has tended to look across the oceans, both Trans-Pacific and Trans-Atlantic.

00:27:24.440 --> 00:27:26.640
<v SPEAKER_1>And as you say, we could do more.

00:27:26.640 --> 00:27:45.400
<v SPEAKER_1>So I'm interested in your ideas about what we can do within our hemisphere, because I do think having the attention of the

United States on the hemisphere is not necessarily a good thing as we've seen in the case of Venezuela and the snatch of Maduro and what the Americans are trying to do to Cuba right now.

00:27:45.560 --> 00:27:53.800

<v SPEAKER_1>And I think we, Canada and Mexico, both have interests in not seeing that kind of American attention on countries.

00:27:55.120 --> 00:28:01.200

<v SPEAKER_2>Well, I think that that's an issue where we can work together.

00:28:01.240 --> 00:28:09.940

<v SPEAKER_2>That's what I think is very important that Canada, I think it has a certain status, but to become full member of the Pacific Alliance.

00:28:09.940 --> 00:28:12.040

<v SPEAKER_2>Now, I think that will be important.

00:28:13.620 --> 00:28:20.000

<v SPEAKER_2>I think to begin with, the Pacific Alliance countries all have strong mining sectors.

00:28:20.000 --> 00:28:28.580

<v SPEAKER_2>So I think Canada can therefore play an important role in those mining sectors, which Peru has, Mexico has, Ecuador has, and Chile has.

00:28:29.080 --> 00:28:34.340

<v SPEAKER_2>So I think that that's important for you to join, fully join the...

00:28:34.600 --> 00:28:37.000

<v SPEAKER_2>Now, we're having a problem again, Mr.

00:28:37.000 --> 00:28:40.280

<v SPEAKER_2>Trump, who has complete loss of uncertainty.

00:28:40.280 --> 00:28:41.720

<v SPEAKER_2>He has fundamentally...

00:28:41.760 --> 00:28:54.460

<v SPEAKER_2>This meeting in Miami worries us very much because the meeting in Miami involved 11 heads of government of Latin America.

00:28:54.860 --> 00:28:58.640

<v SPEAKER_2>All those that are closer to Mr.

00:28:58.640 --> 00:29:06.800

<v SPEAKER_2>Trump, and therefore the right-wing government, the right-wing governments of Latin America, all of them are there.

00:29:06.800 --> 00:29:15.300

<v SPEAKER_2>And it puts Mexico in a tough position because Mexico was not invited, and Brazil was not invited, and Colombia was not invited.

00:29:15.300 --> 00:29:19.140

<v SPEAKER_2>So it's a coalition of the right-wing that favor Mr.

00:29:19.140 --> 00:29:20.600

<v SPEAKER_2>Trump's ideas.

00:29:21.180 --> 00:29:35.600

<v SPEAKER_2>And they put Mexico as a main generator of violence and organized crime organization as a terrorist threat towards all of the Americans.

00:29:36.180 --> 00:29:43.820

<v SPEAKER_2>So that doesn't help us very much in terms of our relationship with the United States.

00:29:44.940 --> 00:29:48.700

<v SPEAKER_2>President Schoenbach has taken an approach of dialogue and cooperation.

00:29:48.700 --> 00:29:53.880

<v SPEAKER_2>I think she has had some like 10 phone calls with Mr.

00:29:53.940 --> 00:29:58.720

<v SPEAKER_2>Crump after every change in Wim.

00:29:58.720 --> 00:30:04.920

<v SPEAKER_2>And it has helped a little bit, but he changes his approach.

00:30:05.180 --> 00:30:07.980

<v SPEAKER_2>He says, he's a great lady and I like her very much.

00:30:07.980 --> 00:30:15.800

<v SPEAKER_2>And the next day, he puts on, wants to put tariffs on whatever Mexican oil or whatever.

00:30:15.800 --> 00:30:17.760

<v SPEAKER_2>And then the issue of Cuba.

00:30:17.760 --> 00:30:19.200

<v SPEAKER_2>We have to work to weather in Cuba.

00:30:19.200 --> 00:30:21.780

<v SPEAKER_2>I think that also is very important.

00:30:22.260 --> 00:30:28.500

<v SPEAKER_2>And in the long term, I think one idea that has come up, I think again, I think we have to gain time.

00:30:28.500 --> 00:30:33.440

<v SPEAKER_2>We hope that President Trump will not be, obviously cannot be reelected.

00:30:33.440 --> 00:30:39.820

<v SPEAKER_2>So as you mentioned, what happens at the midterm and then what happens after Mr.

00:30:39.820 --> 00:30:41.200

<v SPEAKER_2>Trump's period is over.

00:30:41.200 --> 00:30:42.080

<v SPEAKER_2>We hope that Mr.

00:30:42.080 --> 00:30:47.100

<v SPEAKER_2>Vance would not be the candidate, because that probably will be for the worse.

00:30:47.140 --> 00:30:53.360

<v SPEAKER_2>But well, maybe, hopefully, maybe the Democrats can put a good candidate and things might improve.

00:30:53.360 --> 00:31:10.100

<v SPEAKER_2>In the long term, three of our main economists, you know all of them, Jaime Serra was considered to be one of the fathers of NAFTA as a Minister for Trade, and he was very enthusiastic about it.

00:31:10.100 --> 00:31:17.400

<v SPEAKER_2>And Guillermo Ortiz was Chair of the Backward International Settlements, and also Central Bank Governor and Minister of Finance.

00:31:17.400 --> 00:31:19.900

<v SPEAKER_2>They both have come to the idea of supporting.

00:31:19.900 --> 00:31:27.540

<v SPEAKER_2>And I think many think tanks in Mexico support the idea as a way to cope with China, and many other things.

00:31:27.540 --> 00:31:34.340

<v SPEAKER_2>A customs union, work gradually towards a customs union and a common external tariff.

00:31:34.640 --> 00:31:37.160

<v SPEAKER_2>That has intellectual support in Mexico.

00:31:37.740 --> 00:31:39.440

<v SPEAKER_2>It's not possible with Mr.

00:31:39.440 --> 00:31:39.900

<v SPEAKER_2>Trump.

00:31:40.940 --> 00:31:46.180

<v SPEAKER_2>How can other views this idea of a possible customs union, external tariff?

00:31:46.180 --> 00:31:51.300

<v SPEAKER_1>Well, there are some people who do think that way.

00:31:51.560 --> 00:31:54.900

<v SPEAKER_1>Our friend Tom Dequino, for example, has talked about a grand bargain.

00:31:54.900 --> 00:32:02.820

<v SPEAKER_1>He gave a speech just a couple of weeks ago, in which de facto you would get a customs union that could involve all three countries.

00:32:04.320 --> 00:32:07.320

<v SPEAKER_1>I think right now Canadians, because of Mr.

00:32:07.320 --> 00:32:11.640

<v SPEAKER_1>Trump, would not go for this.

00:32:11.640 --> 00:32:15.060

<v SPEAKER_1>But perhaps over time, and it is something we looked at.

00:32:15.060 --> 00:32:37.660

<v SPEAKER_1>But given our situation at the time, looking back to 1980s when we did the free trade agreement, but at the end, our situation, we decided that it would constrain us too much, and we would basically have to go along with where the Americans were on more issues than we wanted, so we weren't there.

00:32:37.660 --> 00:32:47.980

<v SPEAKER_1>The one idea that has been talked about, but I'm interested in your views on this, is the idea of having the European Union become part of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which is something Mr.

00:32:47.980 --> 00:32:49.340

<v SPEAKER_1>Carney is talking about.

00:32:49.340 --> 00:32:51.260

<v SPEAKER_1>What do you make of that?

00:32:54.160 --> 00:32:56.140

<v SPEAKER_2>I think we're again behind you.

00:32:56.380 --> 00:33:07.940

<v SPEAKER_2>But I think that again, enlightened views in Mexico think that we have to strengthen TPP plus, whatever, Trans-Pacific Alliance, we have to strengthen it.

00:33:07.940 --> 00:33:10.360

<v SPEAKER_2>We have to work with Canada on that.

00:33:10.900 --> 00:33:23.660

<v SPEAKER_2>At the same time, we're working at a a broad framework of cooperation, including trade with Europe.

00:33:23.660 --> 00:33:26.800

<v SPEAKER_2>So I think it makes sense to join both things together.

00:33:26.800 --> 00:33:33.060

<v SPEAKER_2>And we should do exactly what you're doing also in opening up.

00:33:33.060 --> 00:33:35.080

<v SPEAKER_2>That's not yet in the country of Mexico.

00:33:35.080 --> 00:33:36.280

<v SPEAKER_2>We're behind there.

00:33:36.280 --> 00:33:48.820

<v SPEAKER_2>But I think India is very important to establish a trade and strategic relationship with India because of the great potential it has.

00:33:48.820 --> 00:33:59.340

<v SPEAKER_2>So I think we agree with, generally speaking, with your view of diversifying trade, working certainly what we have now, TPP, Europe and Latin America.

00:33:59.340 --> 00:34:11.680

<v SPEAKER_2>And I think that everything that might link them up, I think the importance there is, well, first, if the trade agreement with the US collapses, obviously we have to go that way.

00:34:11.680 --> 00:34:31.860

<v SPEAKER_2>The other is if it's just not a free trade, but simply a trade treaty, what some people call a zombie treaty with the US, which essentially maintains the status quo, we have to look at this side parallel, the idea of a coalition of the willing.

00:34:31.860 --> 00:34:34.160

<v SPEAKER_2>And those are the areas where we have to work at.

00:34:34.160 --> 00:34:35.200

<v SPEAKER_1>No, I think that makes sense.

00:34:35.200 --> 00:34:40.380

<v SPEAKER_1>Look, my final question to you before I ask you what you're reading and streaming these days, is if you, Mr.

00:34:40.380 --> 00:34:50.260

<v SPEAKER_1>Carney turned to you and said, all right, if there's one thing I could do that would benefit both Canada and Mexico, you've said earlier joining, becoming full member of the Pacific Alliance, what would you say to Mr.

00:34:50.260 --> 00:34:51.480

<v SPEAKER_1>Carney?

00:34:51.480 --> 00:35:29.660

<v SPEAKER_2>Well, I think the first thing is, I think for there, perhaps an invitation or a proposal to, it's a session that Prime Minister Carly and President Shane Baum meet in Ottawa soon, with the presence of all our key ministers and the main business leaders, and to start working, that thing would be, to start working as a broad-based strategic alliance between Mexico and Canada, that goes beyond free trade.

00:35:30.060 --> 00:35:32.080

<v SPEAKER_2>I think free trade is coming out of fashion.

00:35:32.080 --> 00:35:34.220

<v SPEAKER_2>The era of free trade is gone.

00:35:34.220 --> 00:35:35.660

<v SPEAKER_2>Well, starting going up.

00:35:35.660 --> 00:35:39.340

<v SPEAKER_2>Obviously, I believe in free trade and full access and zero tariffs.

00:35:39.340 --> 00:36:00.180

<v SPEAKER_2>But we have to work at scientific, as Sergio Arcoser has mentioned in a paper, to work at scientific, technological, higher education in artificial intelligence cooperation, and to work together and strengthening those areas in which we have common ground.

00:36:00.180 --> 00:36:04.820

<v SPEAKER_2>I think Mexico is doing very badly in production of basic

foodstuffs.

00:36:04.820 --> 00:36:08.000

<v SPEAKER_2>I think we have to increase trade with Canada in basic grains.

00:36:08.000 --> 00:36:11.180

<v SPEAKER_2>I think that has to be part of the agenda.

00:36:16.440 --> 00:36:28.560

<v SPEAKER_2>And infrastructure, I think there's a good base in the work, the bomberdea set up in Querétaro that's working well in terms of aircraft industries and automobile industry.

00:36:28.560 --> 00:36:30.460

<v SPEAKER_2>I think infrastructure in the area.

00:36:30.460 --> 00:36:36.700

<v SPEAKER_2>We have the idea of increasing our passenger railroads in Mexico.

00:36:36.700 --> 00:36:40.660

<v SPEAKER_2>It's probably not the best idea, but the government is going behind that.

00:36:40.660 --> 00:36:44.200

<v SPEAKER_2>I think we would need Canadian know-how behind this if it goes forward.

00:36:45.360 --> 00:36:55.620

<v SPEAKER_2>Obviously, energy is an important now with all that's happening, and pressure of all going above \$100 and all the situation in the middle.

00:36:55.620 --> 00:36:59.300

<v SPEAKER_2>We're basically energy importers now.

00:36:59.520 --> 00:37:01.320

<v SPEAKER_2>We have to work with Canada in that.

00:37:01.320 --> 00:37:16.160

<v SPEAKER_2>I think there's an urgent agenda that we have to work together with the highest level between Canada and Mexico, to push forward the priority plan and to make sure it's executed.

00:37:16.160 --> 00:37:18.580

<v SPEAKER_1>Enjoying NED Bank as well.

00:37:18.580 --> 00:37:20.560

<v SPEAKER_2>Enjoying NED Bank as well.

00:37:23.240 --> 00:37:25.220

<v SPEAKER_2>I know this very well from my son.

00:37:25.220 --> 00:37:27.740

<v SPEAKER_2>Scotiabank is doing a great job in Mexico.

00:37:28.680 --> 00:37:30.780

<v SPEAKER_2>It's the fifth largest bank in Mexico.

00:37:31.680 --> 00:37:35.660

<v SPEAKER_2>It's a far sighted bank because it's working in something we have neglected.

00:37:36.080 --> 00:37:39.520

<v SPEAKER_2>Small and medium-sized industry credit support.

00:37:39.520 --> 00:37:41.300

<v SPEAKER_2>So it's doing a very good job.

00:37:41.300 --> 00:37:51.920

<v SPEAKER_2>Also, the Canadian CBEQ case depot and the Teacher's Pension Fund, there have been good relationship between Mexico.

00:37:51.920 --> 00:38:00.200

<v SPEAKER_2>We have to strengthen also our financial relationship that is there, and it offers a very good potential.

00:38:00.200 --> 00:38:12.760

<v SPEAKER_2>That should help very much in the way Scotiabank, I'm sure, would be on board to support this strategic alliance between Mexico and Canada, regardless of what our American friends do.

00:38:12.760 --> 00:38:15.420

<v SPEAKER_1>Francisco, sage advice, and I think Mr.

00:38:15.420 --> 00:38:34.700

<v SPEAKER_1>Carney has pointed out that there's urgency to act, and I think the sooner we have this conference, preferably having President Schoenbaum come up before the summer, to get started would make a lot of sense, especially given the pressures on our North American trade partnership.

00:38:36.520 --> 00:38:45.220

<v SPEAKER_2>One area which I think would be important, because I think one of our best people in that is we have to work at the North American Security Alliance, broad-based.

00:38:45.220 --> 00:38:46.520

<v SPEAKER_2>That's not only Fentanyl.

00:38:46.520 --> 00:38:49.340

<v SPEAKER_2>It's a broad-based security alliance.

00:38:49.340 --> 00:38:56.900

<v SPEAKER_2>When I was there, there was a very good cooperation between Mexican police agencies and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

00:38:57.280 --> 00:38:58.560

<v SPEAKER_2>It was very useful.

00:38:58.560 --> 00:39:11.700

<v SPEAKER_2>There was activity also with the Chief Justice, the very intelligent Chief Justice of Canada, working with a judicial system that really needs cooperation and support.

00:39:11.700 --> 00:39:13.980

<v SPEAKER_2>So I think there are many issues.

00:39:13.980 --> 00:39:24.340

<v SPEAKER_2>So in the strategic agreement, a broad-based strategic agreement, including safety and security will be useful.

00:39:25.160 --> 00:39:26.920

<v SPEAKER_1>Oh, this all makes good sense.

00:39:26.920 --> 00:39:29.300

<v SPEAKER_1>So what are you reading or streaming these days?

00:39:34.140 --> 00:39:36.940

<v SPEAKER_1>You've always got several books on the go, I know.

00:39:38.480 --> 00:39:39.840

<v SPEAKER_2>Let's see.

00:39:39.840 --> 00:39:44.700

<v SPEAKER_2>Well, I'm reading a lot about Mexico-Canada relations.

00:39:44.700 --> 00:39:52.740

<v SPEAKER_2>But no, I'm working very much at many histories.

00:39:53.040 --> 00:39:54.100

<v SPEAKER_2>I like it very much history.

00:39:54.100 --> 00:39:56.580

<v SPEAKER_2>So history and foreign affairs.

00:39:56.580 --> 00:40:00.800

<v SPEAKER_2>Now, I think we're very worried about what's happening in the Middle East.

00:40:00.800 --> 00:40:08.740

<v SPEAKER_2>So we're looking over the issues in the foreign affairs, issues in the Middle East and Ukraine.

00:40:08.740 --> 00:40:13.620

<v SPEAKER_2>So international issues are taking a lot of time.

00:40:13.620 --> 00:40:17.280

<v SPEAKER_1>Well, I know you've written a couple of papers recently, which I've read and enjoyed.

00:40:17.280 --> 00:40:22.060

<v SPEAKER_1>Send us the hyperlinks to those papers, because we'll put them, we'll post them in the program notes.

00:40:22.720 --> 00:40:26.660

<v SPEAKER_1>To this, this podcast when it comes out.

00:40:26.660 --> 00:40:27.100

<v SPEAKER_2>Okay.

00:40:27.100 --> 00:40:29.000

<v SPEAKER_1>I know they're published, but we don't have the hyperlinks.

00:40:29.000 --> 00:40:31.160

<v SPEAKER_1>But if you can send that to me, we'll put them in.

00:40:31.160 --> 00:40:31.640

<v SPEAKER_2>Okay.

00:40:31.640 --> 00:40:34.360

<v SPEAKER_1>We'll draw people to them, because I know that you've written them in English.

00:40:34.360 --> 00:40:46.420

<v SPEAKER_1>And this will help set up the conference that we'd love to see happen between the Prime Minister and the Presidents in Ottawa, leading to a closer strategic partnership.

00:40:46.460 --> 00:40:49.360

<v SPEAKER_1>The Presidents would say comprehensive strategic partnership.

00:40:49.360 --> 00:40:50.020

<v SPEAKER_2>Right.

00:40:50.020 --> 00:40:50.880

<v SPEAKER_1>Francisco, thank you.

00:40:50.880 --> 00:40:53.640

<v SPEAKER_1>And thanks for listening to this episode of The Global Exchange.

00:40:53.640 --> 00:40:55.500

<v SPEAKER_1>We were joined today by Francisco Suarez.

00:40:55.500 --> 00:40:59.920

<v SPEAKER_1>And as I say, we will link to the paper he has done, because he's going to send me the link.

00:40:59.920 --> 00:41:08.300

<v SPEAKER_1>You can find The Canadian Global Affairs Institute on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn, and The CGAI Network on iTunes, Spotify, and Google Play.

00:41:08.300 --> 00:41:12.260

<v SPEAKER_1>The lecture is brought to you by our team at The Canadian Global Affairs Institute.

00:41:12.260 --> 00:41:15.920

<v SPEAKER_1>My thanks go to our producer, Jordyn Carroll, and to Drew Phillips for providing our music.

00:41:16.540 --> 00:41:20.080

<v SPEAKER_1>I'm Colin Robertson, thanks for joining us today on The Global Exchange.