TRIBUTE TO DAVID ROCKEFELLER HONORARY CHAIRMAN THE AMERICAS SOCIETY

Notes for remarks by Thomas d'Aquino President and Chief Executive Canadian Council of Chief Executives

On the occasion of a presentation to David Rockefeller, Honorary Chairman, Americas Society during a visit of the Chairman's International Advisory Council of the Americas Society to Vancouver, June 6, 2002



Minister Rock, fellow members of the Americas Society, ladies and gentlemen.

We are privileged to have with us here today, an individual whose contributions to enterprise and humanity over the better part of the past century have made him one of the world's most respected citizens.

I am referring to David Rockefeller, Honorary Chairman of the Americas Society and of the Council of the Americas.

David's accomplishments are such that a brief tribute can hardly do him justice. In the domain of philanthropy, he has demonstrated over and over again the power of giving: as Chairman of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund; as the Benefactor and Chairman of The Rockefeller University in New York; and as Chairman of the New York City Partnership focusing on areas such as youth employment, education, economic development and public safety.

His lifelong devotion to making New York City a better place through improved housing and urban revitalization was tested yet again in those dark and tragic days following the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centre. He rose to the occasion with words of encouragement and inspiration.

But David's impact can be felt far beyond New York City. His irrepressible urge to promote international co-operation and understanding led him to assist in the founding of a number of organizations that have made their mark and that have benefited from his leadership. Among them is the Trilateral Commission designed to promote understanding and co-operation among the nations of North America, Western Europe and Japan; and the International Executive Service Corps, a group of private sector volunteers who provide technical and managerial assistance to private enterprises in developing countries.



Many of us in this room know David because of his leadership in the Western Hemisphere. Convinced that inter-American co-operation in the spheres of culture, education, governance and business would lead to greater prosperity and stronger democratic institutions in the Americas, he founded the Americas Society and served as its Chairman from 1981 through 1992.

David was an early and convincing advocate of the idea that Mexico should join Canada and the United States in forming the North American Free Trade Agreement. I had the privilege of working with him as our respective organizations helped to make this idea a reality.

But in David's eyes, North American free trade was only the first step on the road to closer economic co-operation and integration in the Americas as a whole. Hence his staunch support for the Free Trade of the Americas initiative.

David's identity over many years has been shaped by his passions: for education, for the arts, for community service, for nation-building, and for the promotion of international co-operation. He is well known, of course, for his distinguished career in banking and finance, and for his leadership of the Chase Bank, an institution that he served for 35 years.

What is not as widely appreciated is the *Canadian connection* to the launch of his career. Just before David graduated from Harvard in 1936 with a degree in English history and literature, he asked his father John D. Rockefeller Junior, what he should do. His father replied that he should go to Canada and seek the advice of Prime Minister Mackenzie King. Mr. King and Mr. Rockefeller, you see, were the closest of friends.

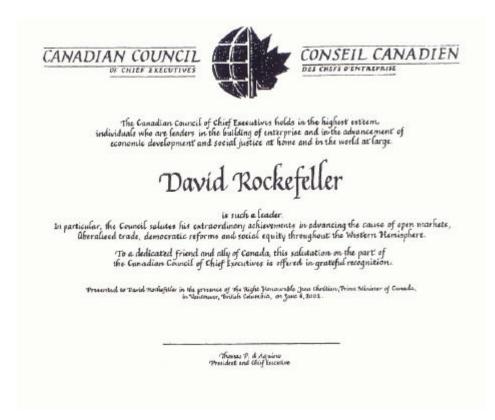
David traveled to Ottawa, and spent the weekend with the Prime Minister at Laurier House. Mr. King advised him to continue his studies at Harvard, the London School of Economics, and the University of



Chicago - the precise institutions where Mr. King himself had studied - and to pursue a career in banking and finance. David followed Mr. King's advice and, as they say, the rest is history!

Over many years, David has demonstrated his attachment to Canada in countless ways. Indeed, I have heard him say on more than one occasion that Canada and the United States are the closest of friends and the staunchest of allies - just, I would add, as his father and Mr. King were in their lifetimes.

David, on behalf of the Canadian Council of Chief Executives and the Council's Chairman, Charles Baillie, I am pleased to present you with a testament of our high esteem and respect.



Thomas d'Aquino