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NEWS RELEASE

Proposed North American Treaty Promotes Security and Economic Links While Preserving Each Country's Sovereignty

The economic argument for more open trade needs to be aligned with other priorities such as the environment, economic and physical security, and democratic control.

Montreal – With the recent announcement of a North American Partnership on security and prosperity during a trilateral meeting between Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin, US President Bush and Mexican President Fox, the Institute for Research on Public Policy (IRPP.org) is highlighting Daniel Schwanen's study "Deeper, Broader: A Roadmap for a Treaty of North America".

By spelling out mutual security obligations and opening the door to broader and deeper economic linkages among enterprises, individuals and regions, this treaty would usher in a new direction in relations between Canada, the US and Mexico, while still affirming their sovereignty.

"Negotiations on further North American integration will have to consider the interaction between commercial relations and other issues of interest – such as security, immigration, development and the environment – as well as implicating a broader cross-section of the population of all three countries in the benefits of integration and decisions concerning the process," writes Schwanen, who is director of research and programs at the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI).

Some features of the proposed treaty are:

- Affirmation of the principle of sovereignty through, among other things, a commitment to preserve the integrity of the three countries' constitutions and uphold the prerogatives of their legislative bodies;
- A strong commitment of mutual support and cooperation to prevent certain breaches of security from occurring on the North American territory, together with a tripartite committee of security auditors that would monitor whether serious security threats have been satisfactorily addressed;
- An trilateral transborder advisory commission charged with promoting the principles underlying the agreement, such as fair and open commercial relations, and mandated

to intervene with governments, agencies, regulators, courts and dispute settlement panels if these principles are contravened;

- An “economic citizenship” provision, which gives each country’s nationals and legitimate temporary residents improved employment opportunities and recognition of their professional and technical qualifications and recognizes the need for a North American guest worker program;
- Recognition of state and provincial governments as partners in the agreement, including an explicit expectation that subnational governments sign on to the treaty – provisions affecting subfederal governments would apply only if a certain number of subnational governments actually sign on;
- Formal recognition that such an integrated project needs to engage not only business interests, but also labour, consumer and environmental interests, and more generally civil society, if it is to succeed;
- A commitment to expand the means citizens have at their disposal to “express their values in full respect of any differences among them”; and
- Creation of a “Cohesion Fund,” which would promote regional development where needed to enhance North Americans’ capacity to participate more fully in the benefits of an integrated continental economy by investing in infrastructure such as transportation and communication, environment, education, training and health, and security.

“Deeper, Broader: A Roadmap for a Treaty of North America” is folio 3 of *Thinking North America*, volume 2 of the *Art of the State*. It is now available on-line in Adobe (.pdf) format on the Institute’s Web site, at www.irpp.org

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The Art of the State II: Thinking North America provides a comprehensive examination of the multifaceted challenges and opportunities presented by North American Integration.

For more information or to request an interview, please contact the IRPP.

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