

meet

Foreign Affairs Minister

John Manley

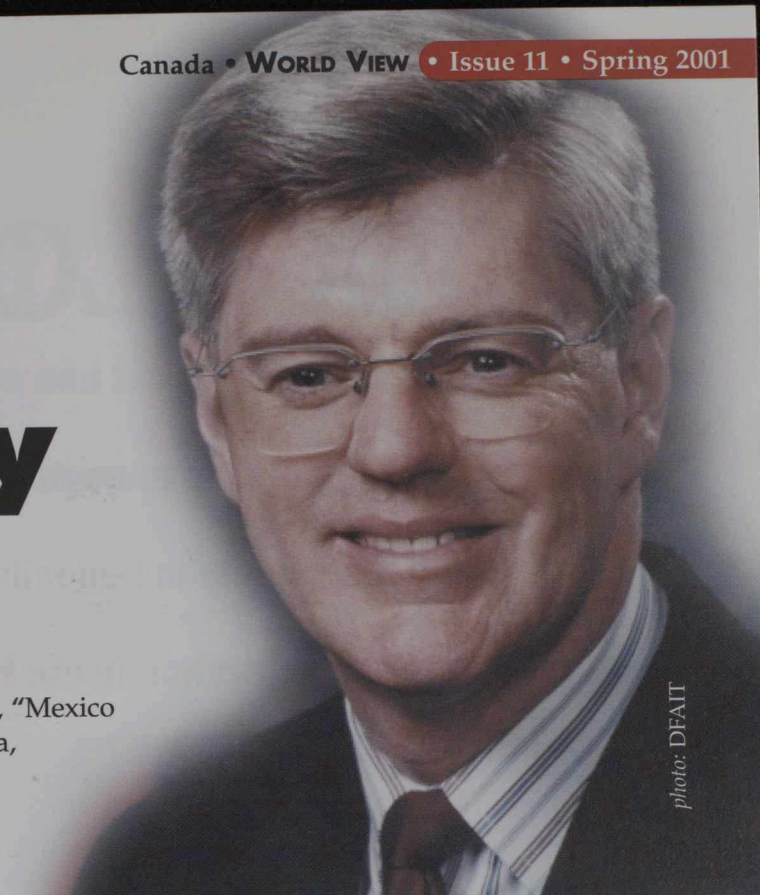


photo: DFAIT

Relationships with neighbours and the world

Newly inaugurated U.S. President George W. Bush has a strong interest in Mexico: he was governor of the southern border state of Texas, speaks Spanish and knows President Vicente Fox personally. The result is that many political commentators are questioning the future of the Canada–U.S. relationship.

John Manley recognizes that when President Bush thinks of the border, he probably thinks of the U.S.–Mexican frontier. But that need not worry us, says the Minister: “The fact remains that Canada is still the United States’ largest trading partner and that many Cabinet secretaries, including my counterpart Colin Powell, know Canada well.” He adds, “Managing our bilateral relationship is at the top of my agenda.” The trade relationship is worth US\$1 billion a day. That makes it a top concern for Mr. Manley, along with defence issues and international affairs.

Another priority is enhancing and strengthening Canada’s relationship with

Mexico. The Minister notes, “Mexico is a vital partner for Canada, whether at the economic level, the trade level or the hemispheric policy level. Ten years from now, Mexico will be the United States’ largest trading partner and a major powerhouse in hemispheric affairs. We must develop our relations with Mexico, which is now our third-largest trading partner, in order to further advance our interests in the Americas as well as on the international stage. And these interests include the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas, human rights in the Hemisphere and the fight against illicit trade in drugs.”

John Manley also wants to enhance Canada’s relations with the G-8 member countries, as well as China and India. Multilateral institutions, he says, will continue to be important partners in

Canada’s international relations—including the United Nations, the Commonwealth, La Francophonie, the Organization of American States and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum. Among issues that will draw the Minister’s attention are globalization, the environment, the international fight against drug trafficking and organized crime, and the human security agenda.

Happy in his new portfolio, John Manley intends to leave his imprint on Canada’s foreign policy. “Foreign Affairs is an exciting challenge,” he says. “I am looking forward to making my modest contribution to a more peaceful and prosperous world.” ●—



photo: CANAPRESS

Mexican President Vicente Fox shakes hands with Foreign Affairs Minister Manley, left, after a private meeting in Mexico City, January 2001.

“Humanitarianism and promoting Canada’s economic prosperity are intertwined.

The broader human security agenda is

an essential part of economic relations....

I see them as tied together.”