

At the invitation of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Mr. Mirko Tepavac, the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada, Mr. Mitchell Sharp paid an official visit to Yugoslavia from May 28 to June 1, 1970. Mr. Sharp was received by the President of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The Secretary of State for External Affairs was also received by the President of the Federal Executive Council, Mr. M. Ribicic.

During the visit talks were held in a friendly and constructive atmosphere on the current international situation and on the state of relations between the two countries.

The two Secretaries of State reviewed events in a number of areas of the world of mutual concern, including Europe, the Mideast and Asia. Particular importance was attached to the questions of security and cooperation in Europe. The hope was expressed that further progress would be made with the various multilateral and bilateral discussions already underway and also with expanded and intensified contacts looking toward a conference or conferences on European security and cooperation.

While there were naturally some differences of view, the two sides agreed on the necessity of intensifying efforts to find equitable political solutions for the conflicts that pose threats to international peace. In this context, stress was laid on the right of all countries to play an active role on the basis of the principles of independence and sovereign equality, free from interference in their internal affairs.

The two sides, recognizing the importance of the United Nations for safeguarding and strengthening world peace and security and fostering conditions for wider cooperation among peoples, expressed the hope that the 25th Anniversary of the World Organization would promote these aims.

The two Secretaries of State agreed that good relations and mutual understanding between countries such as Canada and Yugoslavia were also in the broader interest of the international community. They were glad to note the positive development of bilateral relations between the two countries in recent years. At the same time they emphasized the desirability of expanding cooperation and exchanges in as many fields as possible, and agreed that further efforts should be made particularly with respect to trade, consular matters and political consultations.

Mr. Sharp extended a warm invitation to Mr. Tepavac to visit Canada at a mutually convenient time and Mr. Tepavac accepted with pleasure.