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EXPORTS AND FOREIGN POLICY

Speaking to the Canadian Exporters' Association at the Seignior Club, Montebello, Quebec, on October 14, Mr. Howard Green, Secretary of State for External Affairs, said in part: "...In the months since I assumed my present office, I have frequently had to deal with down-to-earth problems relating to international trade and economic relations, for such matters are, in fact, part and parcel of our external relations. For this reason, I should like to make a few observations on the international economic scene, and to outline for you what our policy is towards some current problems.

"...I do not think it is too simplified a definition to say that the purpose of a country's foreign policy - any country's foreign policy - is to look after the best interests of its citizens. Some of these interests are economic, some of them are cultural, some are personal; *all* of them are inexorably bound up in the overriding objective of maintaining world peace. And I submit that, second only to this paramount objective, and, indeed, a prime factor in its achievement, is the promotion of the economic well-being of the world. Human beings whose economic circumstances are improving will, in general, be less likely to have aggressive designs on their fellows, and it is also true that the more prosperous a country is, the more difficult it will be for a Government to place that prosperity in jeopardy for the sake of some chauvinistic objective....

"One reflection in our foreign policy of the importance which the Canadian Government attaches to the promotion of the economic well-being of the international community has been the active part we have played in the field of assistance to the less-developed regions of the world....

"Some of our assistance has been provided under the auspices of the United Nations, which has in many ways proven itself to be extremely well suited to such purposes....The economic work of the United Nations General Assembly is handled by the Assembly's second committee, which is becoming a very important forum for the discussion of all these questions. This committee deals with such matters as international commodity problems, economic development of the under-developed countries, and technical assistance. It has some notable achievements to its credit, including the recent creation of the United Nations Special Fund. In the past year, Canada was the largest *per capita* contributor to the Special Fund and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance.

"More recently there have been discussions concerning the proposed new International Development Association. This Association, in the form in which it is envisaged at present, would have an initial capitalization of \$1 billion, of which Canada's share would be about \$38 million. Although some aspects of it still have to be worked out, this Association could give a strong impetus to the economic development of less-developed countries....

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