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Dr. Kissinger affirms U.S. ties with Canada closer than with any other country

At a news conference in Ottawa on October 15, United States Secretary of State Henry Kissinger stated that there was no country with which the U.S. had closer ties and better communication than Canada.

Dr. Kissinger, who was in Ottawa for 24 hours, accompanied by his wife and a few officials, met with Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan MacEachen and other senior ministers. It was his first official visit to Canada since his appointment in 1973.

Among topics discussed were defence, Canadian cable television policies, energy and pollution of the Great Lakes. The talks, said Dr. Kissinger, had been "very friendly, very warm".

Following are passages from the joint news conference with Mr. MacEachen and Dr. Kissinger, and from toast speeches by Mr. MacEachen and Dr. Kissinger at a dinner given in his honour on October 14:

* * * *

News conference

The Secretary: "There is no country with which we have closer ties and



Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan J. MacEachen (left) and U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger on arrival in Ottawa, October 14.

better communication than Canada. We reviewed the whole range of world problems, as well as bilateral issues between the United States and Canada, of which there are several, but none of them insoluble. The atmosphere was very friendly, very warm...."

Cable television policies

Q. "Mr. Secretary, as you well know, there is legislation coming up in Parliament here affecting American publishing and television interests. We have heard that, particularly, American television interests have impressed on you the necessity of bringing their views before the Canadian Government. Have you discussed this issue in Ottawa and do you have a position yourself on it at the moment?"

A. The Secretary: "Feelings on the issue of deletion of television commercials on Canadian cable television are rather intense in the United States. I receive a large volume of mail from influential senators on that subject. I have brought that fact to the attention of the Canadian Government and I am told that this issue is before the courts in Canada at this moment, so we have to wait for the court decision...."

* * * *

Canada's links with Europe

Q. "Mr. Secretary, Canadian policy in the past few years has been one of attempted detachment, or dissimilation from the United States, something called here the "Third Option". This has been particularly manifest in an attempt to get something we call a contractual link with Europe. I wonder what is the American response to this policy?"

A. The Secretary: "As I pointed out yesterday evening in my toast, we judge our relationship with Canada not by the other links that Canada may have, nor by whether the motives are those of independence or so-called special relationship, but by whether on the fundamental issues we can achieve a certain parallelism of action. We believe that the international system will be most stable if the key

Postal strike

The Canadian Union of Postal Workers, which was negotiating a new contract for employees who work inside the Post Office, called a nationwide strike on October 21.

The Government (the employer) offered \$1.70 an hour increase for a 30-month contract. The union, which lowered its original demand from \$3.26 an hour for one year to \$2.73 over 27 months, refused to discuss wages until other problems - the use of casual labour, annual leave and length of contract - were settled.