

iniquitous. It should be attacked, and anything that could be done about it by way of direct negotiation with the Community or in the GATT we shall go on pursuing.

Part VII - Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, 1985 onwards

[HILL] Perhaps I might ask just one last question, which is a rather broad one. Since 1985 you have been Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, and I wondered whether, reflecting on your experience in that position, you have any comments to make about Canadian foreign policy, about the role of NATO in world affairs, and about current changes in the general pattern of world affairs?

[TAYLOR] Yes, I think I have said all I need to about Canada and NATO. I do believe that it will go on being an indispensable organization for us for another generation both in political and defence terms. In that period, we may see some very important changes in the Soviet Union which will require a Western response; and that Western response is going to have to be found by the NATO countries - still, I think, as an Alliance. How far will all this go and what changes might be produced? It is very hard to speculate about. What is happening in the Soviet Union is absolutely fascinating. We spent the latter years of Mr. Brezhnev's life speculating endlessly on the question: "After Brezhnev, what?" One of the things that was recognized was that there would eventually be a generational change - time alone would take care of that. Even if all else was unpredictable, we knew that would happen sooner or later; and given the advancing age of the older generation of Soviet leaders, it looked like sooner. We would be faced with people who would represent a different expression of Soviet power. Whether that was going to be favourable or harmful to our interests - well, that remained to be seen. We have at least got this far, that after several interim stages, what is plainly the successor generation has arrived. I do not think you could say that the present leadership is firm and fixed yet, that is to say that five years from now the composition of the Politburo is going to be the same as it is now. We are bound to see further changes. There have been at lower levels very considerable changes, and presumably time too will work further changes. It seems that, naturally enough, as with any leader, Mr. Gorbachev sees his principal responsibilities as being domestic: the improvement of his own society, that he is responsible for bringing about if he can.

We see some of the extensions of this in changes in Soviet foreign policy. Since I have been in my present job there has certainly been a total change in the style of Soviet diplomacy. We have had evidence of that - a kind of precursor - with the visit several years ago paid by Mr. Gorbachev himself to Canada before he arrived at his present eminence. Since the new leadership has been in power, we have had above all Mr. Shevardnadze's visit to Canada last autumn. This gave people in Canada a direct experience of what a different style, in the conduct of Soviet affairs, we are seeing.

Well, people can say: "Yes but that is only a change in style, and we must not be gulled by people who are merely charming." Well, alright. I would say that the change in style is already an improvement. It is far easier to do business with people with whom one can have a decent and civilized dialogue than it was sometimes with people who were as obdurate as some of the conservative spokesmen of the former generation. However that may be, what matters - and I would certainly agree with the cautious people about this - is the substance, and in substance, what have we seen?

Well, in terms of Canada's own relations with the Soviet Union, some quite interesting changes. The first notable improvement in years, for instance, in dealing with family re-unification cases