



CANADA

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 72/6

INDEPENDENCE AND INTERDEPENDENCE:

PRINCIPAL OBJECTS OF CANADA'S FOREIGN POLICY

Part of an Address by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, to the Board of Trade, St. John's, Newfoundland, February 25, 1972.

* * * * *

The principal aim of Canadian foreign policy is to preserve for Canadians the essential independence of action and expression that will enable Canada to survive, to grow and to make its own contribution to an interdependent world.

Interdependence in today's world means, I suggest, three things:

- (1) interdependence in terms of peace and security;
- (2) interdependence in terms of world prosperity;
- (3) interdependence in terms of the human condition.

I shall deal with these in turn.

Interdependence in terms of peace and security is not confined to the alliances -- NATO, NORAD, the Warsaw Pact -- that the nations of the world deem necessary to their safety. We see today an interdependence between the power blocs that arises from modern weaponry and the balance of deterrence. The United States and the Soviet Union no longer threaten each other, as they did in the days of Henry Cabot Lodge and Vishinsky at the United Nations. They rely on each other to see to it that nuclear war does not break out. China is on the way to becoming a major nuclear power. The balance of deterrence to which we have become accustomed may well be replaced, in time, by a triangle of forces. I do not expect world problems to be eased when three nuclear powers rather than two must find an equilibrium, but they can never be solved while one of the three stands aside.

This reality certainly underlies President Nixon's historic visit to Peking. I don't know if you were as deeply moved as I was when Richard Nixon seized Chou En-lai's hand at Peking airport, the same hand that John Foster Dulles spurned in Geneva in 1954. Did you ever expect to see a warm greeting from Mao Tse-tung to the American President, head of state of a country Mao had