



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
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SOME ELEMENTS OF CANADIAN FOREIGN POLICY

Extracts from a Statement to the House of Commons on November 28, 1963, by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin.

...As we all know, there are certain factors which condition our responses to the shifting international events of our time. Factors such as history, our traditions, our resources, our geographical location and our cultural composition are present at all times, whatever the issue happens to be or whatever government in Canada finds itself in power, and they combine to create what I would call a natural Canadian reaction to any major international development. At the very least, these continuing factors tend to define the limits within which Canadian policy can develop and still remain true to our national values. They give a general continuity to Canadian policy which transcends party considerations, and I am sure that all Honourable Members would wish to see continued the non-partisan spirit that customarily has been reflected in our external policies.

Canada - U.S. Relations

Just as there is a constant theme running through Canadian foreign policy over the years, so also do I believe there is a continuity of external policies on the part of our great neighbour to the South. Even so profound a tragedy as that which befell the United States just a week ago will not alter in any fundamental way the firm but wise and humane qualities which generally have been the hallmark of American leadership on the great international issues of our times, those affecting peace and war, and the task of raising living standards of the less fortunate peoples of the world. The wanton crime which ended a brilliant young life and career, striking grief into the hearts of all citizens of the world, as the late President Kennedy often called his fellow human beings, may lead to a pause while the new President gathers to himself the strands of office; but the course of American policy, as we know now from his statement yesterday, remains unchanged. The values by which John Kennedy lived, and for which he died, will live on. I know the House will join with me in extending to the President of the United States our best wishes and our pledge of Canadian co-operation in discharging the arduous responsibilities which have fallen to him.

Among the tasks which will confront him are a number of important and delicate questions affecting Canadian-United States relations....