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A VITAL NORTH AMERICAN RELATION

"Just as we Canadians value the special contribution of French Canada and the other population groups to the enrichment of our national life, so I am convinced that Americans should value the special contribution of Canada to the vigour and the interest of North American life as a whole," the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, told delegates to the Canadian-American Assembly on the Canada-United States Relationship, meeting on July 23 at Mont Gabriel, Quebec. Mr. Sharp developed this thesis as follows in part:

...There is little point in being different just for the sake of being different, but where differences exist that have value in themselves, either within nations or between nations, the aim should be not to eliminate those differences but to do everything possible to reconcile them and to use them for the advancement of the common interest. This is what we are trying to do within Canada and I suggest that this philosophy should also inspire Canadian-American relations. Variety is the spice of life or, as my French-Canadian friends would say, *le sel de la terre*.

A SECOND NORTH AMERICAN VOICE

Internationally, for example, Canada is a second North American voice in world affairs. More often than not this second voice will be reinforcing the United States, although with a different accent and often with variation in emphasis. As in the past, there will no doubt be many occasions in the future when the flexibility of Canada's position as a middle power, as a country with links with the multi-racial Commonwealth and as a country which, in the brief

span of its history, has passed through the process of industrial development, will permit lines of approach to be explored that are not open to a great power such as the United States.

There will be occasions when it is apparent that real differences separate us. This will be a not unimportant signal to the world that the United States is not a power that requires uniformity and conformity as the price of its friendship and support. May I venture to suggest that our occasional disagreements may also serve as a signal to the United States that some aspect of its international policies merits re-examination, if not revision?

CANADA NEEDS ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE

A politically-independent Canada is a stronger and more dependable ally of the United States than would be a servile satellite. I submit that there is a parallel in the field of economic relations....

To most American business men, Canada is a field for investment, a source of raw materials or an extension of the United States market. Canadians, naturally enough, take a somewhat different point of view. They welcome the investments and the know-how that goes with them. They are prepared to sell the raw materials and they buy American-type goods with avidity. But one can hardly blame them for wanting something more. They want to have an increasing share of the fun and reward of developing their own country and they want the diversity of opportunities for their children that goes with the more advanced forms of manufacturing.

In part the attainment of these Canadian aspirations depends upon how much we save and what we