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STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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Speech by the Honourable Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, February 25, 1967.

It is an honour for me to be here this evening, to address this second Inter-Collegiate Conference on Canadian-American Relations.

I should like to congratulate the organizers of this conference for their initiative and determination in drawing together students and faculty members from universities in Canada and the United States to discuss the foreign policies of our two countries. Through your formal discussions, and your social contacts, those of you who have the privilege of participating in this conference can do much to bring about a greater awareness, and a deeper understanding, of the relations between our two interdependent but distinctive North American peoples.

There is no surer evidence of the intimate and lasting friendship which characterizes the relations between the Canadian and American peoples than gatherings of this type, marked as they are by frank discussion and free exchanges of views.

Tonight I wish to speak to you about various aspects of the foreign policies of Canada and the United States as they appear to a Canadian foreign minister.

It is axiomatic that the foreign policy of a country is an expression of what it conceives to be its national interest. To say this is not to deny that there are wider international interests with which the national interest of any given country may be identified. Nor is it to deny that the national interests of two or more countries can be the same in certain instances.

In an increasingly interdependent world, where electronics are bringing peoples closer together into what a distinguished Canadian scholar has described as a "global village", and where we are all faced with the challenge of learning to live with the inconceivably terrible means of destruction which modern technology has placed at our disposal, the national interests of all countries must inevitably be closely identified with the preservation of peace.