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FOREIGN POLICY FOR CANADIANS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, tabled in the House of Commons on June 25 a series of papers entitled Foreign Policy for Canadians – the result of a special review of foreign policy announced by the Prime Minister in May 1968.

The Government's approach to foreign policy is explained in the general paper, while five "sector" papers – on Europe, Latin America, the Pacific, the United Nations and international development – deal in more detail with Canadian policy in these areas.

A summary follows of the contents of the six papers:

Canadian foreign policy has not been static since the Second World War. It has been adjusting to a changing world and to Canada's changing needs. But an empirical process of adjustment cannot be continued indefinitely. A time comes when policy must be comprehensively examined and renewed,

These papers present, in essence, the results of the special review of foreign policy carried out by the Government. They show the main contours of Canada's external policies and suggest how they are being reshaped to meet the challenges and oppor-



*The Honourable Mitchell Sharp,
Secretary of State for External Affairs*

tunities offered by a rapidly-changing world. In some cases the papers present policy decisions taken by the Government such as that to increase the proportion of national income to be sent on international development assistance and that to develop closer relations with the nations of the Pacific and to play a larger part in the inter-American system, in others they offer ideas for public discussion.

GENERAL PAPER

The pursuit of Canada's aims and interests in their external dimension provides the major theme of the general paper. These aims and interests must be seen in terms of the realities Canada faces in the contemporary world. Foremost among these is the preponderant power and influence of the United States. The dilemma of Canada's relations with the United

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