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Business and government in a changing world economy

"It is important that Canadians both in government and business, recognize the changing realities in the international economic environment and continue to co-operate," stated Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson in remarks to the Canadian Council of the International Chamber of Commerce, Montreal, last month.

Mr. Jamieson spoke on the role of government in promoting and protecting the interest of the Canadian business community in the changing world economic environment.

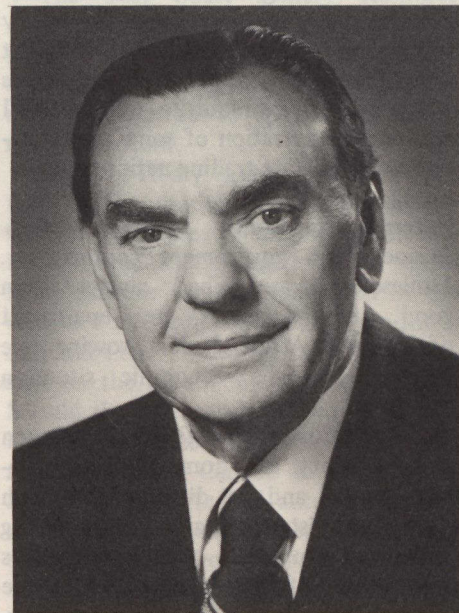
The phenomenal economic growth of the postwar period had ended, said the minister, and Canada would, no doubt, continue to have to deal with reduced economic growth, inflation, unemployment, energy and resource shortages, external pressures on payment imbalances, currency re-alignments and serious readjustment to problems in the sensitive industry sector.

The variety of countries with which Canada would have to deal — "state-trading, newly-industrialized, market-economy, oil-rich, centrally-planned, middle-income" — was changing and would present formidable challenge to both government and industry, he said.

The game is changing

The 'game' of the external economic environment, Mr. Jamieson stressed, was changing. In the 1980s it would be played "by a different and more complex set of rules". He said the most obvious new rules were those from the Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN) in Geneva, designed to govern international trade with the aim of establishing a "freer and fairer environment".

New regulations under the MTN include the new non-tariff codes providing government with improved means to deal with unfair trade practices, while providing the business community with assurance that trading partners would adhere to the same rules.



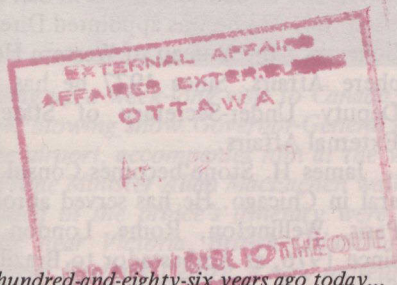
John Evans

Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs, Donald C. Jamieson.

In a variety of other forums, rules governing various other aspects of international economic behaviour were also being elaborated. Mr. Jamieson cited the example of the rules governing deep seabed mining and the 200-mile economic limit at the Law of the Sea Conference, as well as the codes of conduct governing the transfer of technology, shipping and restrictive business established by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Economic diplomacy

Along with international economic life and its rules, the conduct of economic diplomacy in the 1980s, both multilaterally and bilaterally, would have to change, continued Mr. Jamieson. Multilaterally, international economic institutions such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and UNCTAD were playing an ever-increasing role and, he suggested, "we



One-hundred-and-eighty-six years ago today... The Upper Canada Gazette, the first newspaper in Upper Canada, was published at Niagara.

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