

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES



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CANADIAN FOREIGN POLICY IN A CHANGING WORLD

Statement to the House of Commons on May 22, 1964,
by the Secretary of State for External Affairs,
the Honourable Paul Martin.

On November 28 last, I made a full statement to the House on Canadian policy concerning a wide range of major international issues. Today I propose to concentrate on the most important developments that have taken place in the meantime in areas of primary concern to our country.

Since last November I have attended a number of important conferences and meetings, including two ministerial meetings of the North Atlantic Council, one in December of last year and one last week, the United Nations Trade and Development Conference in Geneva in March, and a session of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament. I also accompanied the Prime Minister on visits to France and the United States in January, and we received here in Ottawa in February the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom.

Three Main Developments

In one way or another, all these meetings had to do with the three main developments which have characterized the last decade in international affairs, the continuing contest between the Communist and non-Communist worlds in both a military and an economic sense; the changing relationships which are taking place within both the Communist and non-Communist camps, and finally the adjustments which both groupings have been making in their relations within the so-called third world, the less-developed and often non-aligned nations which now comprise more than two-thirds of the United Nations.

These three main tides of development have brought with them such a host of new and unfamiliar problems that there has been an understandable, and perhaps inevitable, tendency to try to deal with them piecemeal and in separate compartments. Yet the obvious interrelationship of these major political trends should convince one that at some stage -- and I do not pretend to know how or when -- the means whereby we are endeavouring to cope with some of the major unresolved problems must be brought together. It is clear to me that, when we in NATO decide on a particular size and structure of defence arrangements to cover a given future period, we must not only consider whether that structure is adequate to ensure our physical security but what impact it will have on what we are simultaneously trying to accomplish in the Disarmament Committee in Geneva, and how it might affect prospects for a settlement of European security problems. Again, when we contemplate the rash of local conflicts which have broken out in the Middle East, Africa and Southeast Asia,