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CANADIAN FOREIGN POLICY

Speech by the Honourable Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, to the Joint Service Clubs, Medicine Hat, Alberta, February 5, 1968.

A recent book surprised a good many Canadians by pointing out that Canada has been the source of a galaxy of great technological innovations in the past 100 years - from the diesel locomotive and the telephone through automation to the zipper and the foghorn.

I sometimes think that Canadians are equally surprised at our accomplishments in the field of foreign relations. For example, how many of us are aware that Canada has become the sixth-largest trader in the world; that we are sometimes called the founder of the "new" Commonwealth; that we were instrumental in the creation of NATO, the Colombo Plan and the United Nations, that we are the sixth-largest provider of foreign aid in the world and the only major donor whose aid has been rapidly increasing; or that we have participated in all the peacekeeping operations of the UN and were the key country in the establishment of the UN Forces in the Middle East and Cyprus?

These are significant achievements. They, and the policy which has made them possible, should be better known. Today I should like to report on what Canada has been doing in recent years on the international stage and suggest some of the opportunities for the future.

The role we have been playing can be dealt with under headings: maintenance of world peace, international economic development and the furtherance of specific Canadian national interests.

No country in the community of nations has put a higher priority on the attainment and maintenance of world peace than has Canada. Our dedication to these objectives has been apparent in everything which we have been doing abroad. For example, the war in Vietnam. Canada has had no direct responsibility in the Southeast Asian region and no military alliance with the nations of the area. As members of the International Control Commission, however, we have not been able to stand by while the war in Vietnam raged on, causing tragedy to the participants and threatening even wider and more dangerous conflict. We have felt that the war must be brought to an end and that we must do everything in our power to help in suggesting ways by which