



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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THE MAJOR CONCERNS OF CANADIAN FOREIGN POLICY

A Statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, to the House of Commons Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence, May 15, 1973.

The purpose of this statement is to provide a short background account of some of the major preoccupations and activities of the Department of External Affairs and of CIDA (the Canadian International Development Agency) by way of a prologue to the discussions on estimates.

It has become fashionable recently for foreign-policy analysts and foreign ministers, including myself, to report the end of the postwar era of international relations, the emergence of new power centres, and a new pattern of relationships contending with a new and increasingly complex range of problems. However, the nature of these changes is of such a magnitude and relevance to the tasks of External Affairs and CIDA that they bear highlighting to this Committee.

A new constellation of international relationships has emerged in which power is likely to be more widely diffused. The new centres of gravity are, of course, the EEC, Japan and China. Almost every major area of the globe is profoundly affected by the changes.

In Europe the enlargement of the EEC has underscored the economic and political cohesion of that region. *Détente* is very much on the move. Chancellor Willy Brandt's *Ostpolitik*, the opening of substantive discussions on European security and MBFR, the Agreement on Berlin and the initial SALT understanding are contributing to a less abrasive and potentially more productive political climate.

In Asia, the changes are no less significant -- determined negotiations have brought increased, but by no means certain, prospect that a generation of tragic conflict in Vietnam may come to an end. The continuing emergence of China into the world, the consolidation of Japanese influence, and the radically altered relationships between the United States and China, on the one hand, and between China and Japan, on the other, have fundamentally altered the complexion of that area. These developments, in turn, are changing and expanding the importance of the "Pacific Rim" to Canada.