

CHINA A SUPER-POWER

The bi-polar world, with the United States at one pole and the Soviet Union at the other, has passed into history. It was going already as contacts between East and West multiplied and as confrontation gave way to the phase of negotiation that may yet usher in an era of co-operation. The arrival of China on the world scene presents us with a triangle of forces. Chou En-lai has said that China's intentions are peaceful. China is determined, however, to become a major nuclear power and will do so. China has publicly repudiated the super-power role. But at the United Nations and in the world at large this role is being accorded to it. I am interested to note that the *Economist* of London refers without comment or explanation to the three super-powers.

Whatever China's relative position in economic or military terms and however the Chinese leaders see their own role on the international scene, China is already a super-power politically. This is a result, as I have suggested, of a consensus of world opinion. It would appear that China is seeking a position of leadership in the Third World. This is a development that must be watched carefully. The three-cornered world may not be much safer or easier to live in than the bi-polar, but it is more realistic. Without the participation of China the nations of the world could not possibly reach agreements on security, disarmament and arms control or nuclear testing that would be universal in application. With China in the equation at least it is possible, if not in the short run very probable.

China has made clear on numerous occasions that it will not join the United States and the Soviet Union in a great power hegemony — even if either or both of those powers wished that to happen. China is committed to universality in seeking settlement of disputes and working toward the great objectives of peace, security and reasonable universal prosperity. What this means remains to be seen. From a Canadian point of view the prospect is welcome.

World experience in the years of confrontation should have taught us all that governments with whom we have disagreements do not disappear or change their ways because we ignore them or keep them at arms length. Certainly Canada has learned this lesson and learned, too, that people under oppressive rule are not generally helped by sending their government "to Coventry". The opposite is more likely to be the case. From our own experience, Canada has learned that world peace, security and prosperity are best served by maintaining continuing contact with all the countries of the world whatever their political systems or attitudes. Such contact does not imply approval. We have contact with the Portuguese Government but they are in no doubt of our firm position against their colonialist policies in Africa. This affects the relationship, sometimes in material ways,

but it does not destroy the contact. We live in an inter-dependent world where it is unrealistic and destructive to close ourselves off from whole countries because their ways are not our ways.

CANADA NOT TURNING FROM U.S.

Voices have been raised, crying that reciprocal visits with the Soviet Union, the Protocol on Consultations we have with that country, our recognition of the Peking Government and the support we gave to bringing the People's Republic of China into the United Nations indicate a move away from our traditional friends and the beginnings of anti-Americanism. This is absurd. Canada has always sought diversification in its international relations, to play its own part in the world. The last four years, which have seen our contacts with the socialist countries multiply and mature, have also seen us increase very materially our commitment to the countries of Black Africa, of both English and French expression. In the same period, we have developed new relations with the nations of the Pacific. With Japan, we have a joint ministerial committee that meets annually. Our interest in Indonesia and Malaysia is increasing. We are in constant bilateral contact with Australia and New Zealand, formerly seen principally as fellow members of the Commonwealth. Never before has there been such a careful and deep cultivation of our relations with Western Europe.

In the next few months we expect to achieve permanent observer status in the Organization of American States and we have already joined many of the constituent agencies of the inter-American system.

In the light of this broadening of our world-wide interests, I put it to you that it is unacceptable to suggest that Canada is turning away from the United States and toward the Soviet Union. Some observers in the United States have suggested that Canada is trying to "disengage" from its southern neighbour. Nothing could be further from the truth. Diversification of relations does not imply disengagement from our community of interest with the United States. What is possible and desirable, and what we are doing, is to avoid drifting into total dependency upon the United States by suitable domestic policies and by developing closer and more effective relations with other countries — some of them among our oldest friends and others countries with whom we can cooperate, despite deep differences in policy and philosophy.

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CHANGE IN WORLD TRADE

Today, trade between East and West is increasing rapidly. Exchanges in the fields of science and technology are multiplying. To a large extent this is a concomitant of the easing of political tension. But it is also a result of the growing interdependence between all the countries of the world, an inter-