



Bulletin

Vol. 26, No. 48

December 1, 1971

THE CHANGING INTERNATIONAL SCENE

The following is a partial text of an address by Mr. Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs, to the Order of the Sons of Italy in Toronto on November 6:

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Things have been happening quickly here at home in Canada, and in the world as a whole, and it is this rapid rate of change that contributes much to current unrest. Many of the assumptions we made in the past have to be re-examined. The accepted patterns have been broken. Canada recognizes the People's Republic of China. Other nations, some of them among our oldest friends like Italy, follow. Peking takes the China seat at the United Nations. President Nixon announces a new economic policy and shock waves are felt around the world, nowhere more than in Canada, the United States' best customer and closest friend and ally.

Within six months, the Prime Ministers of the Soviet Union and Canada pay extended visits to each other's countries, a Protocol on Consultations is signed in Moscow and a General Exchanges Agree-

ment in Ottawa. Britain moves towards the European Common Market. The whole pattern of world trade, so essential to Canadian prosperity, seems to be changing. Signs of hope for an end to hostilities in Indochina are offset by a growing confrontation between India and Pakistan.

All of this and much more within the space of a relatively few months.

Small wonder that there are uncertainties as to the future and the course that Canada should follow both at home and abroad.

First and foremost, I am sure you will agree, is the question of how to protect and strengthen the Canadian economy in this complex situation and on that point, I shall say only two simple things.

CANADIAN POLICY NOT ANTI-U.S.

First, we are not going to strengthen our economy by anti-American policies. It is our destiny and our good fortune to share the North American continent with the richest nation on the earth's surface. It makes good sense to exploit that advantage for all it is worth. It makes good sense to work with the United States for our mutual benefit.

The second point is that in our economic policies we should strive to avoid unnecessary dependence upon the United States by promoting trade and financial links with the rest of the world. This is not anti-American in any sense. It is traditional Canadian policy, which is becoming more and more relevant as Europe and Japan, for example, challenge the predominant position of the United States as an economic power and the Soviet Union looks outward for trade with the non-Communist world.

The effort to diversify lies behind the Prime Minister's visits to the nations of Asia and the Pacific - and our trans-Pacific trade is multiplying apace - behind the constant consultations my colleagues and I are having with European governments

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