

Finally, what of some of the political issues over which there have been differences in the past? One of the most important still exists, the war in Vietnam. The Government has expressed its serious concern over the renewed violence there. We have said that Canadians want to see this war ended soon by negotiation, and that they will be relieved when the United States has been able to withdraw from Vietnam. For our purposes today, we are surely safe in assuming that the war in Vietnam is going to end in some reasonably near future, and that Vietnam as an issue in Canadian-American relations, as well as of discord within the United States, will disappear accordingly.

At a more fundamental level in our political relations with the United States, an extremely interesting pattern is emerging. All of us students of the relationship are conscious that basic shifts have been taking place in the world view of both countries. The implications of these shifts are only beginning to become apparent. I suspect we will spend the rest of the Seventies working out some of their implications. In the process, Canadians may find themselves giving up a good deal of the "conventional wisdom" about relations with the United States. It seems obvious to me that the options for Canadian-American relations, and for Canadian foreign policy generally, are already proving to be markedly different from what they were even five years ago. In a world where the two super-powers conceive their roles with a new and refreshing sense of limitation, and where new power-centres are arising, the smaller countries, freed from the constraints -- and perhaps deprived of the advantages -- of alliance diplomacy, have freedom to manoeuvre unprecedented in this generation. Anxious to assert its identity and to diversify its contacts and its markets, Canada will surely find this a world of opportunity. To a visible extent we have already done so. Without immodesty, we can claim to have led even our great neighbour to take advantage of some of the opportunities of this changing world. To the extent we take advantage of this world -- created in part, let us remember, by the constructive action of the United States itself -- we ought surely to find relatively greater fulfilment, and correspondingly less frustration, in our international role. And this, in turn, ought to help us come to grips with the inevitable problems of the Canadian-American relationship with wisdom and equanimity.

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