

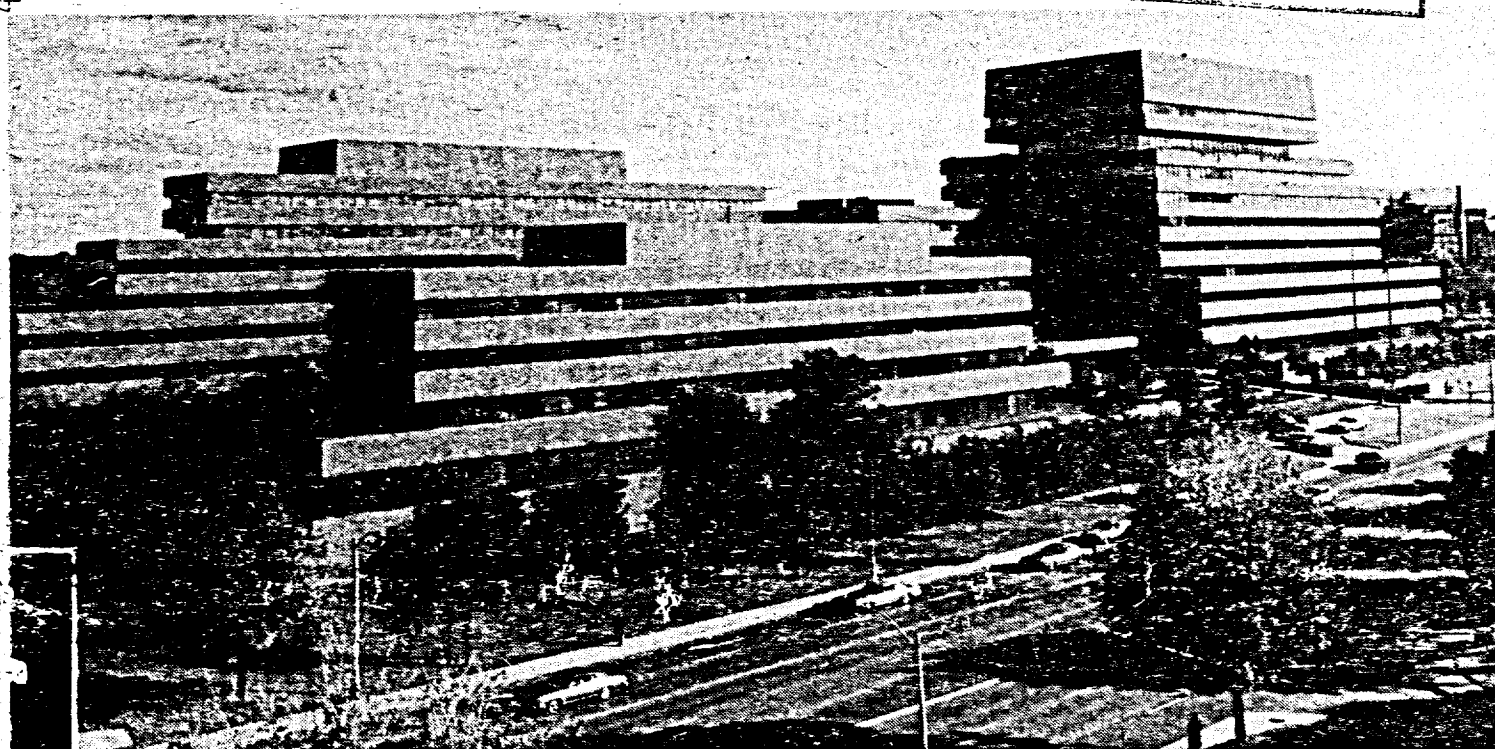
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Spring 1979

US & U.S.A.

A VIEW OF CANADIAN/AMERICAN RELATIONS PUBLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANADA

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INTRODUCTION

In the following pages you will find a series of articles, charts and pictures designed to give you a better idea of the extent and complexity of Canada's relations with the United States. They will give you a broad view of the range of subject matter covered in our bilateral discussions, treaties and agreements. This is not an exhaustive survey as there is simply too much going on between Canada and the United States to describe it all. This publication may encourage you, however, to look more deeply into certain aspects of Canada/United States relations. Both Canadians and Americans should enhance their knowledge and understanding of each other's problems and points of view. This involves people like you and is not solely or even mostly the task of governments!

Events and situations move and change rapidly in this modern world, particularly in Canada/United States relations. Many of the facts in this publication will be dated quickly, but we hope that it will provide a starting point for an understanding of the myriad links between our two countries.

ENTRE AMIS

Today Canada and the United States are firm friends and faithful allies — but it wasn't always that way. Once upon a time we were enemies.

Forgetting about the old wars between French Canada and the British colonies to the south, there were two wars between British Canada and the American republic, in 1775-83 and 1812-14. After that there were two generations of rumours of wars, border conflicts and militia kept at the ready. Hard to imagine today!

In the Canadian rebellions of 1837, many Americans with territorial ambitions were anxious to intervene in Canada's troubles. They formed organizations to do so, resulting in border raids and bloody skirmishes. In 1839 this crisis shaded off into the 'Aroostock War' between Maine and New Brunswick — a bloodless but very dangerous conflict over the boundary. This had hardly been settled when similar trouble arose on the other side of the continent over the Oregon boundary. There were apprehensions of war until 1846 when another treaty settled that question.

The Fifties were peaceful on the whole. A Reciprocity Treaty was signed in 1854 giving Canadian natural products, such as lumber and farm produce, free access to U.S. markets. But even this decade had its controversies — in the British attempt to recruit in the United States during the Crimean War and the dispute over the San Juan Island boundary in 1859.

The American Civil War brought on an Anglo-American crisis that lasted ten years. In 1861, a Union cruiser took two Confederate diplomatic agents off a British ship on the high seas and brought war closer than it had ever been since 1814. The British Government ordered about 11,000 troops across the Atlantic to strengthen the garrisons and border

forts of what was still British North America. Good sense on the part of both governments prevented armed conflict, but the episode left bitterness behind. When the Civil War ended, the Fenian Brotherhood, Irish immigrants who had served in the Union Army, organized attacks on Canada to get at Great Britain. Washington, remembering British support of the South, didn't discourage them, but after years of border fighting and terrorization, the invasion attempts died out.

All these events served to consolidate a realization in Canada that a united defence was the best safeguard against American imperialist tendencies. They helped to produce a confederation — the Dominion of Canada. In 1871 the Treaty of Washington was signed, settling outstanding issues between the two countries, and since then there has been no need to defend the border.

In that year, British troops returned home. A few small garrisons of U.S. regulars and Canadian militia occupied the border stations for awhile but these eventually became obsolete. Naval vessels virtually disappeared from the inland seas. Disarmament became a reality, not by international agreement, but simply because there was no longer any serious disagreement.

At this time Canada, as part of the British Empire, pursued diplomatic contacts with the United States through the British embassy in Washington — a situation which did not change until after the First World War. Therefore the last time a Canadian government made defensive preparations against the United States was in 1895. The

occasion was a boundary dispute between Venezuela and British Guiana in which the U.S.A. intervened and which subsequently went to arbitration.

Old antagonisms die hard and mental disarmament came a little more slowly. Canadians continued to perceive Americans as a military threat for a number of years. For instance, there was a great deal of ill feeling in Canada over the Alaska boundary settlement in 1903, and the U.S.A. sent troops there at the height of the controversy. However there was no response to this by the Canadian Government.

The new era on the border was reflected in 1909 with the Boundary Waters Treaty. Five years later came the First World War, and in 1917 the United States became an ally of Britain and Canada. Today we are friends.

There's no question that the evolution of this Canadian-American relationship has been for the ultimate good of both. We have had problems. We will continue to have problems. But none that cannot be resolved with good will. Today, as you will see, Canadians perceive threats of domination in other areas but, with this awareness, steps are being taken to mitigate these fears.

Co-operation and understanding between two proud and independent nations, one of which has a population at least ten times that of the other, will never be a simple affair. But true friendship and genuine trust run deep and will continue to be the pillars of our relationship. The future presents a great opportunity to continue to build upon our present achievements.

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