



Statements and Speeches

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CANADA-U.S. RELATIONS

A Statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, to the Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Ottawa, March 28, 1974.

The relation Canada has with the United States is unique and by far the most important of our bilateral relations.

It operates in three main areas:

-- In respect of global, political and security issues that affect Canada, but in which we are not directly involved but where we lend our efforts to a solution. Examples of this are: Viet-Nam and the Middle East.

-- In respect of multilateral questions, in which Canada is directly involved and where we may support, seek the support of, or indeed oppose, the United States, such as the Law of the Sea.

-- In respect of the many problems that are special to us, where we seek to promote or protect the Canadian interest through mutual accommodation, such as oil and gas export.

Global situation in
the 1970s

The relation therefore, even in the strictly bilateral area, is significantly affected by developments abroad. It is useful, therefore, to look briefly at what the political scientists call the "international system". The postwar structure of international relations and institutions is undergoing very important changes in the Seventies.

Let me describe these changes under three headings:

First, changing relations at the political level. The achievement of nuclear parity has led the two super-powers -- the United States and the Soviet Union -- to seek appropriate means for stabilizing their relationship. Negotiation has replaced the confrontation of the Cold War period. The United States is in the process of complementing the initial SALT agreement with a second agreement to cover offensive weapons. *Détente* is being pursued at both the multilateral level -- as in the Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions (MBFR) talks and at the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) -- and at bilateral levels -- in augmented commercial, technological and cultural exchanges between East and West.
