

INFORMATION RELEASE

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Ottawa, Ontario, October 14, 1975 -- Following is the transcript of Secretary of State Kissinger's response to the toast by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, The Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, at dinner, Ottawa, October 14, 1975:

"Mr. Minister, distinguished guests: first of all, on behalf of Nancy and myself, I would like to thank you for the very warm reception we have had here, and to thank Allan (Hon. Mr. MacEachen) for the occasion to let us meet so many old friends.

"As I was preparing for this trip, it was called to my attention that after the War of Independence about half of the students of Harvard left the United States and settled in Canada. I could say many things about this, including the fact that it proves what a strong nation you are to have overcome so important a handicap. But then, of course, we were left with the other half, so we started from about the same position. (laughter)

"Mr. MacEachen was nice enough to refer to American foreign policy at this moment. It is true we have gone through an important period of transition in recent years. As events turned out, the late sixties and early seventies in the United States marked the end of the period that was inaugurated by the great acts of creation immediately following World War II. We had come to the end of the men, and maybe of the ideas, which had formed the immediate post war period. In that period, American physical power was predominant, and the legacy of the New Deal created the belief that all problems in the world could be solved by a kind of social engineering. Economic aid by itself seemed to be the solvent of political instability. We thought for a while -- and not unsuccessfully -- that all problems could be dealt with by massive applications of resources and good will.

"Now this policy, which is often derided in the United States today, was, on the whole, quite successful. It took an element of naivety and faith to take a shattered continent and help build its self confidence and its political consciousness. And it took an