



# Bulletin

Vol. 27, No. 6

February 9, 1972

## CANADA IN A NEW WORLD

The following passages are from an address by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, to the Vancouver Board of Trade on January 17:

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The great changes in world power relations that have taken place have been incubating for a decade or more and have come to light only within the last few years. They are two in number – the Soviet response to the long-standing efforts of the West for a reduction of tension and the emergence upon the world scene of China. And here I am not forgetting the developments in Western Europe and Japan. The enlarged Common Market and Japan are now great powers in economic terms and can become so politically. For the purposes of this speech I shall discuss them a little later. Clearly these two great developments are linked. Rivalry between the Soviet Union and China is one of the root causes for the slow and hesitant Soviet *rapprochement* toward the West. There are others – growing self-confidence on

the part of the Soviets, their acceptance as a power with world-wide interests, which has reduced their sense of being an embattled fortress, their growing need for Western technology and increasing trade between the socialist and market economies.

Canada has been playing a quiet but effective role in the search for *détente*. In NATO we have been leaders in the move from confrontation to negotiation. As we welcome President Nixon's planned visit to Moscow this year, we remember that Mr. Pearson, then in the portfolio I now hold, visited Moscow in 1955, 16 years ago, at the beginning of the thaw. I was fortunate to be with him and helped to negotiate the first trade agreement between our two countries.

For some years we have worked carefully but steadily to increase our contacts with the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe. There have been many ministerial visits in both directions, trade agreements and exchange agreements of various kinds have been reached, to the benefit of all concerned. Looked at in perspective, the visit Mr. Trudeau paid to the Soviet Union and Mr. Kosygin's return visit to Canada last year did not signal a departure in Canadian policy but rather a logical step in a process, taken at the right time, the time when the Soviet Union was clearly signalling its wish for better relations with the countries of the West, not least with the two great states of North America.

By finding, after a long, delicate and demanding process of negotiation, a formula for recognition of the People's Republic of China, Canada broke the log-jam and opened the way for Peking to take the China seat in the General Assembly and on the Security Council. This is not just the Canadian view – it is a view held widely in the world.

Canada in a New World .....	1
Smallpox Certificates Discontinued .....	3
Growth of Nelson River Power .....	3
Laura Secord in Britain .....	3
More Initiative Grants .....	4
Halifax Container Terminal .....	4
Dress-Making Louisbourg Style .....	5
Snowmobiles in Ontario .....	6
Colombian Barley Boosted .....	6
Planes for Venezuela .....	7
Housing Rehabilitation Conference .....	7