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### CANADA'S ROLE IN EAST-WEST RELATIONS

Speech by the Honourable Paul Martin, Secretary of State  
for External Affairs, at Carleton University, Ottawa,  
March 11, 1966.

I should like to express my appreciation, Mr. Chairman, to you and to Carleton University for the invitation to conclude the lecture series on "The Communist States and the West" by speaking on "Canada's Role in East-West Relations".

Anyone who has followed this series of lectures will already have asked himself what is the significance for a country like Canada of the far-reaching changes in the nature of world politics which my predecessors on this platform have analyzed. So far have these changes gone, in fact, that it is even legitimate to ask whether there is still such a thing as "East-West Relations". Is there still a contest between two camps, each arrayed around one of the super-powers, with a mass of non-aligned nations looking on, sometimes on the sidelines, sometimes caught in the cross-fire?

A few years ago this was the world scene. The expression "East-West Relations" in practice covered everything of real importance in international affairs. That bipolarity has gone, and we find ourselves today in a much more complicated political and economic and military environment. In such a situation of relative fluidity, it is clear that the smaller powers, including Canada, have greater scope both for the pursuit of their own national interests, which are unique by definition, and for the exercise of constructive initiative in search of solutions to problems of concern to the world as a whole.

This scope I intend to explore tonight. In doing so, I shall argue that the growth of pluralism does not necessarily mean the dissolution of "East" and "West" as we have known them, but rather the adoption by the Soviet Union and the Communist states closest to it (China, with its friends is perhaps another matter) of a pattern of international relations similar to that of the rest of the world. This I believe is likely to be accompanied by the gradual abandonment in practice of world revolution as an instrument of the policy of Communist states. The end result of this tendency, if it is maintained, would not necessarily be the disappearance of rivalry between the Communist and non-Communist worlds but the removal of that rivalry from the sphere of ideology and related military moves to a more rational and stable plane.