



Bulletin

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CANADA AND THE WORLD FEDERALISTS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, held talks with the Secretary-General of the United Nations on August 24 when U Thant was in Ottawa to address the biennial conference of the World Association of World Federalists.

Mr. Sharp also addressed the delegates. Excerpts from his speech follow:

...Canada is composed of two great language groups, English and French, and of a multitude of cultures, both indigenous and brought from every nation on earth. The one-third of our people who are French-speaking are much more than a large minority in Canada. They constitute the largest and most significant French community outside metropolitan France and they are an integral part of the mainstream of French culture.

Canada divides into a number of distinct geographical areas: the Atlantic Provinces, the St. Lawrence Valley and the Great Lakes Basin, the Prairies, the Pacific Coast and the Arctic North. These regions complement one another, they compete with one another and at times their interests come into conflict.

I say all this not so much to give you a sort of primer of the facts to modern Canada as to suggest that in Canada, in microcosm, we are working day by day with the same problems that the world faces on a global basis. I believe that the experience of federal countries such as Canada is vitally important in working out solutions to the problems of world order.

This is not to suggest that in Canada all is for the best in the best of all possible worlds. We are still constantly searching, experimenting and learning. We are learning how two great cultures can live together in equality, freedom and harmony while preserving the cultural heritage of those belonging to neither. We are learning how our indigenous peoples, the Indians and the Eskimos, can enjoy the benefits of modern society while retaining their own integrity. We are learning how to overcome the pockets of chronic underemployment that result from our geographical and climatic disparities. And all the time we are striving to improve our constitutional system so that governments can share jurisdiction not in the narrow interests of political groups but in the wider interests of all our people.

Speaking in Washington last year, the Prime Minister said that for Canada, living next door to the United States was like sleeping with an elephant. However good natured the beast may be, every twist and grunt affects you. The central problem Canada faces is how to live distinct from but in harmony with an immensely powerful neighbour. It seems to me that here too there are lessons to be learned from Canada's experience. In your work it must surely be your aim to find the set of circumstances that will yield a maximum of world order and security while protecting and preserving the essential spirit and culture of all the world's peoples. Cultural homogeneity, even if it were possible to contemplate, suggests no more than cultural stultification, cultural stagnation and cultural sterility.

INDEPENDENCE AND INTERDEPENDENCE
In the course of a lecture in Montreal some years ago, Barbara Ward put forward a rather startling

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