



CANADA

# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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## NEW DIMENSIONS IN CANADIAN FOREIGN POLICY

Speech by the Honourable Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, at the University of New Brunswick Encaenia, May 16, 1967.

I am grateful for the double honour you have paid me today, by granting me the Degree of Doctor of Laws, and asking me to deliver the Encaenia Address.

The expansion in size, number and complexity of our universities is, in part, a reflection of Canada's growing population, wealth and stature. It is also a reflection of the changing world we live in.

I can see similar factors at work in my own field of external affairs, as our relations with other countries have become wider in scope and increasingly complex. A century ago, at the time of Confederation, it was assumed that Britain would conduct foreign relations on Canada's behalf. Such an arrangement could have been possible only in an age when the subject matter of international affairs was limited to a few major issues, such as trade and preservation of peace. In approaching these issues, it was arguable that the advantages of close association with the imperial power outweighed the disadvantages of having the country's foreign policy determined and executed by a government which might be amenable to Canadian advice, but in which Canadians were not represented.

As the relation between foreign policy and the country's domestic interests became closer, and was more clearly perceived, Canadians realized the importance of assuming responsibility for the conduct of their own foreign relations. By a gradual process, in which English and French-speaking statesmen of both historic parties participated, Canada achieved the right to negotiate and sign treaties, exchange diplomatic representatives, and join international organizations on its own behalf. The royal prerogative powers in respect of foreign affairs had been exercised in 1867 on the advice of Her Majesty's British ministers. Within the next 60-year period they came to be exercised, so far as Canada is concerned, solely on the advice of the Federal Government of Canada.

For almost half a century Canada has had an established international personality, and a respected place in the world community. We are active members of the United Nations and a host of other international organizations. Through direct or multiple accreditation we conduct external relations with