



Statements and Speeches

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CANADA'S INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

A Speech by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson, to the Canadian Institute of International Affairs, Toronto, December 3, 1976.

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...(W)hile our domestic policy and our domestic objectives will tend to be fluid, at least superficially, our foreign-policy activities have to be of a more stable and long-range nature, and certainly cannot be subject to buffeting on a constant basis by a variety of pressure groups, however well-intentioned and however deserving those may be.

And so against that kind of brief comment about the way in which I visualize handling the foreign affairs of this country, let me spend much of my time now by talking to you about the subject that I thought might interest you more than any other, and that is how Canada will behave as a member of the Security Council of the United Nations when we assume our membership on that Council on January 1.

It is interesting in this context, by the way, to note that Canada is now taking on its fourth tour on the Security Council. We were there back in Mr. Ignatieff's first tour, I believe, in New York in the first decade of the United Nations, and we have been there in each of the decades since.

During that time, the Security Council has suffered its own ups and downs. There was a period when there was very grave doubt and many reservations were expressed as to whether or not, in fact, the Security Council and, by implication, the whole of the United Nations, might have to undergo serious revision in its structures and its mechanism, because it didn't appear to be working. Some of you will remember that back in the late 1950s the Security Council in one year met only five times because of a whole series of events that occurred during that period of the Cold War and the tensions between East and West. Well, since that time, slowly but to some extent, one can say, satisfactorily, the Security Council has changed its shape and has, in my judgment, become more effective. That does not mean that it is a perfect instrument -- clearly it falls far short of that; but, as against those five meetings that I mentioned in one year, in the first half of 1976, the current year, the Security Council has met some 69 times and, indeed, in addition to that, there have been a