

own part in the world. The last four years that have seen our contacts with the countries of Eastern Europe multiply and mature have also seen us increase very materially our commitment to the countries of Black Africa, of both English and French expression. I was the first Canadian Foreign Minister to visit Black Africa. In the same period we have developed new relationships with the nations of the Pacific. With Japan, we have a joint ministerial committee that meets annually. Our interest in Indonesia and Malaysia is increasing. We are in constant bilateral contact with Australia and New Zealand, formerly seen principally as fellow-members of the Commonwealth. Never before has there been such a careful and deep cultivation of our relations with Western Europe.

The Government of Canada has had a completely fresh look at our relations with Latin America, which has led to an important strengthening of Canadian participation in the Inter-American system. We now have permanent observer status in the Organization of American States, with a resident Ambassador. We have become members of nearly all the constituent agencies of the Inter-American system. We joined the Inter-American Development Bank last week, and will be contributing \$100 million to the Bank over the next three years.

In the light of this broadening of our world-wide interests it is unacceptable to suggest that Canada is turning away from the United States. Some observers have suggested that Canada is trying to "disengage" from its southern neighbour. Nothing could be further from the truth. Diversification of relations does not imply disengagement from our community of interest with the United States. What is possible and desirable, and what we are doing, is to avoid drifting into total dependency upon the United States by suitable domestic policies and by developing closer and more effective relationships with other countries, some of them among our oldest friends, others with whom we co-operate despite deep differences in policy and philosophy.

Whatever Canada may gain from broadening and deepening its international relationships, Canadian relations with the United States will always remain unique in their complexity, their closeness and their dynamic quality. This dynamic quality, this readiness to innovate, was most recently exemplified in the Great Lakes Water Quality Control Agreement signed by President Nixon and Prime Minister Trudeau in Ottawa last month.

This Agreement is one that will affect all of us here and is of particular interest to those living in the vast urban conglomerations surrounding the Great Lakes such as Buffalo, Toronto, Detroit and Chicago. For it is these cities and the people living in them which have done much to despoil the