



CANADA

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 68/14

TOWARDS WORLD ORDER

Address by the Secretary of State
for External Affairs, the Honourable
Mitchell Sharp, to the National
Conference of the World Federalists
of Canada, Toronto, June 7, 1968.

This conference of the World Federalists of Canada is taking place at a period when there seems to be a more serious discussion of foreign policy in Canada than at any time in my recollection. It may be that our coming of age as a nation and last year's centennial have prompted us to consider more critically our role in the world. It may also be a reflection of the intellectual ferment of our times that many Canadians are debating foreign policy questions.

Whatever the reasons for this phenomenon, I welcome it. One of my aims as Secretary of State for External Affairs is to encourage public debate about external issues and to seek the greatest possible degree of involvement by people outside the Government in the development of foreign policy. While it is the Government's duty to formulate policy and its responsibility to answer for that policy to Parliament and the people, I believe that we can come closer to reflecting the real interests of all Canadians if we have participation by a wide spectrum of the community. I therefore hope that there will continue to be a lively dialogue on this subject.

The Prime Minister issued on May 29 a major policy statement on "Canada and the world". In that statement the present Government attempted to set out its basic approach to foreign policy issues. You may have noted that the Prime Minister reiterated his commitment to undertake a comprehensive review and reassessment of Canada's role in the world. He drew attention to the changing features of Canada itself and the world around us which make such a review imperative. He indicated a few particular areas to which special attention will be paid in the reappraisal now under way.

It is my hope that the Prime Minister's statement will stimulate public debate. I should like to see organizations such as the World Federalists, which take a serious and informed interest in these matters, redouble their activities and seek to make a helpful contribution to the reassessment of Canadian foreign policy.

...I wish to say something about the development of world order in terms of enduring Canadian interests which I believe any conceivable Government of Canada would wish to pursue.