

1 can envision some more active stance by the United States
2 in that question?

3 MINISTER LALONDE: You are talking in terms of
4 a "post-independence" scenario. I don't believe it will
5 ever happen. I suppose there is an old rule that
6 politicians should never comment on hypothetical questions.
7 May I break it?

8 MEMBERS OF THE PRESS: Yes. Yes!

9 MINISTER LALONDE: But, let's assume that.
10 As I said, I think that in the first period in the
11 "scenario of independence", you would not see a significant
12 change in terms of Foreign Policy -- whether it is NATO,
13 or NORAD, or all that.

14 But down the line, I still don't believe that the
15 dark scenario is the likely one. But, assuming that it is,
16 I am sure that then you would be in a different context.
17 You are talking, then, in terms of Quebec as an independent
18 State. Surely the United States and the rest of
19 Canada would not hesitate to take the necessary steps
20 to protect their own security if they felt it was threatened!
21 I don't know whether it would take the form of coercion;
22 but, certainly, there could be a lot of economic pressures.
23 And I don't suppose that the United States would behave,
24 necessarily differently in that case than it has behaved
25 in other cases, with other Countries in the past.