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CANADIAN-UNITED STATES RELATIONS

Speech by the Honourable Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, to a Joint Session of the Canadian Public Relations Society and the Public Relations Society of America, Montreal, November 9, 1964.

I am very glad to have the opportunity of addressing this joint meeting of the Canadian Public Relations Society and the Public Relations Society of America. I understand that this is the first time that the Public Relations Society of America has held one of its annual sessions outside the United States. May I, therefore, extend a particularly warm welcome to our American friends on this occasion. I am sure that this joint session of the two societies on Canadian soil symbolizes the friendly interchange of ideas that is both a continuing and a conspicuous feature of relations between our two countries.

The state of Canadian-United States relations is something which, I believe, can never be very far below the surface of our thinking. That is certainly so as far as Canadians are concerned. And I was encouraged to see Mr. Livingston Merchant, twice United States Ambassador to Canada, quoted on the cover of the current special Canadian issue of the Atlantic Monthly as saying for the United States that "Canada is more important to the United States than any other single country".

The nature of Canadian-United States relations is inevitably compounded -- as are the relations between any two countries -- of the elements we have in common and those in respect of which we differ. To say this is not to coin a commonplace. For the fact is that our relations are so close and cover so wide an area of our respective interests and concerns as to give them something of a unique character. And, because of their unique character and complexity, I believe there can be no real understanding of Canadian-United States relations without some understanding of the elements of which they are compounded.

Canada and the United States are neighbours on this North American continent which we share between us. Important segments of our people look back to common origins and speak a common language. Our public institutions are based on common assumptions as to the rights of the individual and the nature of a free society. We are partners in many endeavours, public and private, to promote our common interests and those of the world at large.