

# *Perspectives in Foreign Policy*

AN ADDRESS BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,  
THE HONORABLE MITCHELL SHARP, TO THE JUNIOR CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE, EDMONTON, ALBERTA, ON JANUARY 17, 1970:

... Ottawa is Canada's capital and in a very true sense the life of all Canada flows through it. It is the least provincial of Canada's cities and looks outward to all of Canada. Any propensity Ottawa may have to over-concentrate on the affairs of Eastern Canada is offset at the official level by the large and able *cadre* of senior public servants who come from this part of Canada, and at the political level by the very articulate Members of Parliament that you send to Ottawa.

All this said, however, there is an Ottawa view, and special attitudes that living and working in Ottawa engender. The Federal Government must serve all Canada and the interests of all Canadians. To do this effectively members of the Government must see and know Canada as it is. This isn't easy; Canada is so vast in extent and varies so greatly regionally that no one person can in a lifetime see it all, much less come to know it all. In the weekend I am spending in Alberta . . . , apart from the pleasure of addressing you, I shall be talking to all kinds of people and trying to see Canada in a Western perspective. My own life, spent partly in the West and partly in the East, and my travels throughout the country have made me realize that Canada looks different when seen from different centers. For each of us, the center of Canada and the center of the world is the place where we live and work.

A map of the world printed in London shows the British Isles as the center of the world. The same map published in Toronto or New York has North America at the center. I have never seen a map of the world printed in Tokyo but feel sure that it would show the Japanese islands at the center. Early maps of the world produced in China took this tendency to its logical extreme. They show China as a large landmass in the center, with a number of vague free-form islands on the perimeter labelled England, France, America, Japan and so on. While perhaps this reflects the Chinese outlook on life as much as their geographical conceptions, it contains a germ of truth. We now have a better idea of the shape of the world, but in a very real sense for each of us his own place is the center of the world and everywhere else is seen in relation to it and its perspective.

## **A New Orientation**

Perhaps you feel I have taken a somewhat roundabout route to come to my subject, "Perspectives in Canadian Foreign Policy". The review of our foreign policy