

Increase, inevitably, as the world grows smaller, and as our trade, and our tourism, and our cultural contacts increase. I think that even though we're not relatively as important as we were at the end of the Second World War when we emerged as one of the countries that was relatively unscathed, while our European allies were destroyed and Japan was destroyed, and so on, we're now absolutely very much more important than we were then, and we have many, many more contacts. So I think that foreign policy is going to become an even more active interest for Canadians than ever before.

President Nixon's message goes through just about the whole world, or all the crisis points anyway, but it doesn't include Canada. How do you feel about that?

Oh, I think rather relieved. It means they're not trying to push us about. We're being left to make our own decisions, and they're not apparently concerned to push us in any direction or another. I'm not really too concerned about the fact that he doesn't consider us so worrismatic as to have to make reference to us. On the whole I believe that we do better in the development of our policy when we can work independently of the United States and not under some sort of general policy that the Americans think is suitable to us. So our whole...I rather like it, except for one thing, and that is that in trade the Americans understand the importance of Canada, and in the sections dealing with trade, then we get a very prominent part. But in the political issues, we're apparently not, of course, a source of great concern to them. On the other hand, they don't seem to feel it necessary to lay down any general directions for the pursuit of our policy.

This is not to be read as an indication that they think that we're the next...the 51st state?

No. I don't think so. No, I never interpret it this way. I believe that, you know, after all our policy has been very independent of the United States recently. The fact that they haven't made any mention of the fact that we have recognized China can be read either one of two ways. Either that they weren't too much concerned about it, or alternatively, well, that's the Canadians' policy and that's up to them to defend, not for us to say anything about.

So you feel there's a certain respect in Washington for Ottawa and its ways?

Oh, I think so. A growing respect. Our relations with the Americans, I think, are on a very sound footing now. We are recognized as being people who speak our mind when it's necessary but not people that go around berating the Americans