

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES



CANADA

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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No. 63/17 Speech by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, P.C., M.P., at the International and Athletic Day Luncheon, Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, August 24, 1963.

I am pleased and happy to have this opportunity of speaking to you at this International and Athletic Day at the Exhibition. The Canadian National Exhibition seems to be getting bigger and better year after year. May I take this opportunity of expressing my congratulations to many of the directors here today? As you have increased in size and in scope you have never sacrificed quality.

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of my reflections on the contemporary world scene. I have decided to do so for two reasons - first, because I am acutely aware that foreign affairs are not just my business but yours as well, as, indeed, they are the business of every citizen of this country. Modern means of communication have brought into every home the facts of international developments as they occur, and modern technology in warfare has simultaneously exposed every home to the consequences of these international developments if they should lead to conflict. The result is that each of us has a personal stake in how the external relations of Canada are conducted.

Careful Response Required

My second reason for these reflections is because recent months have witnessed new and significant developments in the world which have reduced international tension. In these happy circumstances, I stress to you that we in the West will have to react with no less care and balanced appraisal than we have reacted in the past to periods of dangerously high tension. The major developments of which I speak, of course, are the signing of the nuclear test ban treaty earlier this month and the recent manifestations of the split which have been developing within the Communist camp - developments which I am sure you will appreciate are by no means unrelated.

Why has it suddenly become possible for two apparently irreconcilable ideologies - international Communism and Western democracy - to discover areas of common interest after years of apparently fruitless discussion and intermittent negotiation?