



# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 70/9

## Some Elements of Canada's Foreign Policy

Address by the Honourable Mitchell Sharp,  
Secretary of State for External Affairs,  
to the Association of International Law  
and International Relations, Bucharest,  
June 3, 1970.

...It is a very great pleasure indeed for me to be in Bucharest for the first time. Although relations between Canada and Romania are of relatively recent origin and have not been extensive, I am hopeful that my visit here and the opportunity it provides for discussion with members of your Government will contribute to the strengthening and broadening of our bilateral relationship.

My only regret is that I should be in your beautiful country at a time when it is suffering so grievously from the disastrous floods that have swept down your great rivers. Please accept the sympathy of the Government and people of Canada and their expression of hope for an early recovery. We have already provided some emergency assistance and we expect to be providing more soon.

I am particularly pleased to have the opportunity to address such a distinguished and learned assembly; I know from the Canadian delegates who attended your international seminar held here a year ago of the intellectual calibre of your Association and of your deep concern - which we in Canada share - for the security and peace of Europe. The Canadian delegates were most impressed with the forum for discussion which you provided and will again provide later this week - a forum in which scholars from many countries can talk to, and not merely at, one another. Such real exchanges of views are essential to international understanding and, unfortunately, are all too rare.

I wish on this occasion to go over with you some of the elements of Canada's foreign policy. The major factors determining Canada's foreign policy are its history, its geography, its culture and its economy. Our geography is a paradox. We are, in population, a small country of 21 million, only slightly larger than Romania. We occupy, at the same time, a vast land-mass, the second-largest country in the world, larger even than the entire continent of Europe. We have as our nearest neighbours, one on our southern border and the other across the North Pole, the two largest and most powerful countries in the world: the United States and the Soviet Union. Our cultural make-up is complex. We