

Q. Mr. Secretary, what do you expect to come out of the President's visit to Canada?

SSEA: I think its main purpose is to show how important Canadian-American relations are. If I could put it in the opposite way, if the President did not come to Canada that would be a matter that would be remarked. The fact that he does come here indicates that he looks upon Canada as being one of the important allies of the United States.

Q. Well, the Presidential Party does not include the Secretary of the Treasury, John Connally, and on the Canadian side you don't have your own Trade Minister there so that they will not be talking specifically about the item that is of the most irritation at the present time. That is to say, the safeguards of the auto pact.

SSEA: Yes, well when the Prime Minister went to Washington he just took me, there were no other ministers who went. Meetings of this kind at the highest level are not for the purpose of negotiation. Sometimes they can be used to complete a negotiation, but they're not for the nitty gritty. This is where the leaders, the top men in the country, get together to talk in general about the state of relations between the two countries. We'll probably talk about trade -- I'll talk to Rogers about it, and the Prime Minister will talk to President Nixon about it, but we're not negotiating on this occasion. That's not what the purpose of the visit is. It is to exchange views upon the state of relations between our two countries and our respective interests in the world as a whole.

Q. Do you think that the trip of the President coming here, of the form of summit talks between the President and the Prime Minister are in fact necessary at this time?

SSEA: I think they are, yes. I think, as I said at the outset, if the President went to Moscow, and he went to China, and he went to Europe or wherever he went, and he omitted Canada that would be a matter for remark.

Q. Is it possible that the President is coming here because we are now in a period that has been described as perhaps the worst state of relations between Canada and the United States in, say, the last decade?

SSEA: Well, I question this. I have probably negotiated more on behalf of Canada with Americans, and with the United States Government than anybody else in either of our countries. I don't detect any bad relations between Canada and the United States. What I do detect is a changing relationship. And it arises out of changing policies of the United States and changing policies in Canada. For example, we have a new foreign policy of the United States, the Nixon Doctrine that affects the relations of the United States with Canada as it