



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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CANADA ASSESSES THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Speech by the Secretary of State for External Affairs,
the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, to the Ukrainian Canadian
Congress, Winnipeg, October 13, 1968.

Three years ago, at the last Congress of the Ukrainian Canadian Committee, you observed the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Committee's foundation. On that occasion, my predecessor as Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, spoke to the Congress about Canadian foreign policy and took as one of his main themes our relations with the Communist world, and especially the U.S.S.R. and Eastern Europe.

I return to that theme now, before an audience that exemplifies Canada's historic ties with the European continent. The civilization of the Ukraine, in which you and your fathers have enabled us all to share, has flourished for centuries in its own soil, and flourishes now in the no less fertile soil of Canada. No one like myself who grew up in Winnipeg could possibly be unaware of the immense contribution of Ukrainian Canadians to the development of our country. Your community is one of the major components of the Canadian mosaic. Last year, when we celebrated our centennial, all Canadians had an occasion to review with pride the strength, prosperity and unity that our country has achieved over the past 100 years by the joint efforts of people with widely-diversified origins. I have not the slightest doubt that in Canada's second century Canadians of Ukrainian background will play just as important a role as they have in the past, under wise leadership like that of Monsignor Kushnir and drawing on the talents of distinguished men in public life such as my friend Michael Starr.

I noticed in the papers you have been considering at this Congress that you are looking forward to the future and not simply recalling the achievements of the past. That is what we must all be doing at this point in Canadian history. The future of our country will be what we make it - what we do ourselves with the resources and the cultural and political heritage that have been passed on to us. Our heritage, fortunately, is largely one of peaceful progress in a stable environment, unlike many countries in other parts of the world.