

by maintaining continuing contact with all the countries of the world whatever their political systems or attitudes. Such contact does not imply approval. We have contact with the Portuguese Government but they are in no doubt of our firm position against their colonialist policies in Africa. This affects the relation, sometimes in material ways, but it does not destroy the contact. We live in an interdependent world, where it is unrealistic and destructive to close ourselves off from whole countries because their ways are not our ways.

Voices have been raised crying that reciprocal visits with the Soviet Union, the Protocol on Consultations we have with that country, our recognition of the Peking Government and the support we gave to bringing the People's Republic of China into the United Nations indicate a move away from our traditional friends and the beginnings of anti-Americanism. This is absurd. Canada has always sought diversification in its international relations, to play its own part in the world. The last four years, which have seen our contacts with the socialist countries multiply and mature, have also seen us increase very materially our commitment to the countries of Black Africa, of both English and French expression. In the same period we have developed new relations with the nations of the Pacific. With Japan, we have a joint ministerial committee that meets annually. Our interest in Indonesia and Malaysia is increasing. We are in constant bilateral contact with Australia and New Zealand, formerly seen principally as fellow-members of the Commonwealth. Never before has there been such a careful and deep cultivation of our relations with Western Europe.

In the next few months we expect to achieve permanent observer status in the Organization of American States, and we have already joined many of the constituent agencies of the inter-American system.

In the light of this broadening of our world-wide interests, I put it to you that it is unacceptable to suggest that Canada is turning away from the United States and toward the Soviet Union. Some observers in the United States have suggested that Canada is trying to "disengage" from its southern neighbour. Nothing could be further from the truth. Diversification of relations does not imply disengagement from our community of interest with the United States. What is possible and desirable, and what we are doing, is to avoid drifting into total dependency upon the United States by suitable domestic policies and by developing closer and more effective relations with other countries -- some of them among our oldest friends, others, countries with which we can co-operate despite deep differences in policy and philosophy.

I have called my speech today "Canada in a New World". If this title seemed a little Delphic -- or at least overstated -- to some of you, I hope that you now understand a little better what it implies. I have also felt it worth while to take up much of my time with a group of distinguished West Coast businessmen discussing the reality of world power relationships and how Canada sees them. Now let me turn to the other great change that has taken place in the last few years -- a profound change in world trading patterns and arrangements, one with very direct effects upon Canada and of very direct interest to you as traders and businessmen.