



# Bulletin

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## MR. SHARP TOURS SCANDINAVIA

*The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, returning from a recent visit to the Scandinavian countries, reported as follows to the House of Commons on June 23:*

My tour began on June 8 in Oslo and ended on June 19 in Reykjavik, after visiting Helsinki, Copenhagen and Stockholm. This was the first time a Canadian Foreign Minister had made a tour of all five Nordic countries. It was the first time that a Canadian Foreign Minister had visited some of these countries.

My purpose in undertaking this tour was to reaffirm on a personal basis the long-standing good relations between the Canadian and Nordic Governments, to provide a new impetus for increased co-operation between Canadians and the Nordic peoples, and to make Canada better known in those countries.

In all the capitals visited, I emphasized that the enlargement of Canada's international horizons taking place as a result of our foreign policy review does not imply any lessening of Canada's interest in Europe, and that we recognize the importance of Europe not only for our security but also for many other dimensions of our national life. It is from Europe that most of our population, our culture and our tradition comes. The bulk of our immigration and a significant portion of our exchanges of persons, ideas and goods are still with Europe. These relations are of great importance not only in themselves but also as a means of diversifying our external relations and developing an identifiably Canadian way of life in North America. For all these reasons we wish to seek new forms of co-operation with the Europeans, including the Scandinavians.

Everywhere we went our reception was friendly and generous, and I wish to say here, as I said

there, how much we appreciated the care with which our programs were prepared and the many kindnesses we were shown. It was evidence, I think, of the high regard in which Canada is held in those countries and of their desire to get to know us better.

### POLICY OUTLINE

Great interest was shown in our review of foreign and defence policies. In outlining its nature and the results so far, I stressed the great changes that have taken place both in Canada and the world in the last few years. I pointed out that Canada is now aware, as it has never been before, that it is not only an Atlantic nation but also an American nation with growing interests in Latin America, a Pacific nation with growing ties with Japan and other Asian countries, and an Arctic nation with increasing responsibilities for the development, surveillance and defence of our vast northern territories. Above all, I emphasized that in deciding to stay in Europe, we have rejected a non-aligned or inward-looking orientation.

This explanation received a sympathetic reception everywhere. Those Nordic countries that are partners of ours in NATO pointed out that our action would necessitate readjustments within NATO and

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