

The early seventies witnessed a major change in United States foreign policy, a shift from global leadership to a more diminished role in the international community. President Nixon's address to Congress in May 1973 on United States Foreign Policy for the 1970s took note of this change. He said:

"The American people had supported the burdens of global leadership with enthusiasm and generosity into the 1960s. But after almost three decades our enthusiasm was waning and the results of our generosity were being questioned. Our policies needed change, not only to meet new realities in the world but also to meet a new mood in America. Many Americans were no longer willing to support the sweeping range of our postwar role. It had drained our financial and especially our psychological reserves."

In short, President Nixon indicated that the time had come for others to share a greater portion of world leadership.

His statement also reflected the growing feeling of Americans that United States policies should serve more immediate and domestic interests. This feeling applies to Canada as well as to other nations. In the United States, a view has been taking hold that the "special relationship" has worked too often to Canada's advantage. They maintain that it has involved accommodations favourable to Canada that are no longer tenable in the light of current economic realities and in the light of the changing United States leadership role.

Linked with this change in external posture are changes in the domestic scene. There is increasing public concern with domestic issues as opposed to foreign problems. The long preoccupation with Watergate has passed and the United States Administration and Congress have begun to concentrate upon a broad range of domestic problems. Their priorities seem to lie in the direction of re-invigorating the economy, combatting inflation, and re-establishing a new sense of purpose and direction in the country. Faced with serious economic problems at home, it is almost inevitable that the Americans will tend to calculate their national