



Statements and Speeches

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NEW BALANCE SOUGHT IN CANADA-U.S. RELATIONS

Remarks by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, at a Dinner Given in His Honour by the United States Secretary of State, the Honourable Henry A. Kissinger, Washington, D.C., August 17, 1976.

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The close dealings that characterize Canada/United States relations have become almost a byword. Perhaps this is in part because we have had much experience. There has always been a full agenda of common interests to be pursued and problems to be resolved. There always will be. I like to think that the numerous meetings Dr. Kissinger and I have made a point of holding in various parts of the world have played a part in setting the tone for the day-to-day dialogue that takes place between our officials. I regard it as most important that we preserve the habit of ready and continuing willingness to communicate openly.

This means that representatives from two neighbouring nations -- nations who know and trust each other well -- are able to speak candidly and realistically as friends. And, while it does not follow that sentiment and goodwill alone colour our perceptions of each other, neither are these irrelevant or unworthy factors.

At the same time -- in a world still struggling to rise above the confines, imperatives and abuses of national sovereignty -- we remain two nation states of unequal power, each with its own defined interests and objectives, most of which correspond but some of which conflict. It is also true that as a nation, trying firmly yet responsibly to chart the direction of its own national development, Canada has taken a number of policy initiatives that are not directed against, but affect most, its closest friends in the United States.

There is a balance to be struck here, between co-operation in mutual endeavour and the building of one's own national strengths from within. A new balance is not always easy to achieve, but responsible Canadians agree that its achievement is a realistic and worthy goal.

Of course, depending on one's perspective of change, I suspect that Canada's efforts to seek a new balance can be misconstrued. Perhaps this accounts for the conclusion of some observers that Canada-U.S. relations are somehow moving out of phase in certain areas, or that
