



U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger made a two-day official visit to Ottawa last October. He is shown here with Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan J. MacEachen. During the course of the visit both men acknowledged that, while the era of special relations between the two countries might have ended, the relation was nonetheless "unique".

There is, of course, the danger than an accumulation of Canadian policy decisions having an adverse effect upon private or public American interests would be seen as anti-American even if not intended to be so or presented as such. There is probably no absolute protection against this danger; Canada is bound from time to time to take actions in defense of Canadian interests that do not please the United States, and there can be no guarantees that these will always be evenly spaced at relatively painless intervals. What we can do to mitigate this danger is to ensure, so far as possible, that we have an effective early warning system through which we can identify stormy seas that may lie ahead along our chosen course and bring into play the process of timely information, consultation and negotiation. This may not resolve all problems — there will be some in which the interests of the two countries are simply incompatible — but it should make for comprehension, if not understanding, and place such issues in the proper perspective of the national imperatives that dictate them. For the rest, I see no reason why commonsense practical solutions cannot continue to be

worked out for the myriad questions that are the day-to-day fare of what is perhaps the largest interaction between any two countries in the world.

This prescription applies to both sides of the relationship, of course, but it is interesting to note that it is as likely, these days, to be Canadian policies as American that cause problems in our bilateral relations — a change, certainly, from the prevailing pattern of the 1950s and 1960s, or even of four or five years ago. There are obviously still many American actions that have great (and not necessarily intended) impact on Canada, but more of the issues between us now have a "made-in-Canada" label. In the energy field, for instance, the problem is no longer that the United States declines to increase its purchases of Alberta oil! It is Canada that has found it necessary first to raise its export price for crude oil to keep pace with the skyrocketing international price it must pay for imported oil, and then to begin phasing out its exports to the United States altogether. Neither move could be said to have been popular in the United States, and there are no doubt some Americans even now with whom the incorrect image

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