

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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Notes for a Speech by the Secretary of State
for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin,
to the Twenty-fifth American Assembly, Arden House,
Harriman, New York, April 23, 1964.

It is both an honour and a privilege for me to be here at Arden House today, and to have this opportunity of speaking at the opening of the Twenty-fifth American Assembly. Since its establishment in 1950, the American Assembly has made a distinguished contribution to our knowledge about many of the vital public issues of our time. The seminars which have been convened and the books which have been published have been of high standard. I have had an opportunity of reading the papers prepared for this Assembly and their impressive scholarship is certainly in the high traditions of the American Assembly.

You have chosen an opportune moment to study the Canadian-U.S. relationship. It was just one year ago next month that Prime Minister Pearson and the late President Kennedy met at Hyannis Port. That historic meeting managed to establish a rapport and create a spirit which served to revitalize and restrengthen our whole relationship, and the stimulus and the dialogue which began at Hyannis Port has been carried forward under President Johnson.

Notwithstanding our many problems, I believe that today the relationship between Canada and the United States possesses a greater sense of maturity and a broader sense of perspective than ever before.

We have cause to be deeply thankful for this, because today our two nations are confronted, both bilaterally and internationally, with a vast range of problems and opportunities, which will severely test not only our maturity and our perspectives but also our capacities, our ideals and our endurance.

In 1964 we are commemorating in Canada the hundredth anniversary of the first conference which led towards Confederation. Throughout this long period there has been a series of changes in the nature of Canadian-U.S. relations. At one time there was consideration of the prospects for free trade between Canada and the United States. At other times there have been bouts of protectionism. There have been sharp swings in public sentiment in Canada and the United States about each other.