

MANITOBA AID TO ST. LUCIA

New horizons will soon open for the blind of the Caribbean island of St. Lucia. A project proposed by a service club in the Province of Manitoba will help them earn a living while participating in the growth of the tourist industry of St. Lucia.

The St. Lucia Blind Welfare Committee and the Castries Lions Club will direct construction of a 40-student academic and handicraft school with dormitories, workshops and *boutiques*. Besides yielding an income to students, sale of items will help the school to meet its own needs.

The cost of construction is being subsidized by the Canadian International Development Agency's Non-Governmental Organizations Division, the St. Lucia Lions Club, Britain's Royal Institute for the Blind, and the Rotary Club of Portage-la-Prairie. In addition, Stephen Edmunds of St. Lucia is studying at the Ontario Institute for the Blind through a CIDA award, and will return soon to join the staff of the new school.

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Canada to remain liberal in its economic policy. Therefore, I see no reason why we should forfeit this understanding. While debate will continue in Canada — often intense debate — I do not expect the fact that Canadians must go on struggling with this issue to become in turn an issue in relations between the two Governments.

It hardly needs saying that there is no national consensus on this question. The warmth of the continuing controversy is proof enough of that. Some regions of Canada are vigorously searching for capital and enterprise and are less concerned about its origin than about the availability. All regions are understandably concerned that national policy should recognize their particular needs and aspirations. The Federal Government considers that Canada can now afford to be more selective about the terms on which foreign capital enters the country. Some 17 per cent of the net annual capital inflow to Canada has been going to purchase existing concerns rather than to develop or expand industries. This sort of inflow may or may not be in the national interest. The Government wishes to ensure that it is. The purpose of the Government's legislation is, therefore, to ensure that this kind of capital inflow will only be approved when a particular takeover will, on balance, be of significant benefit to Canada.

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In the years immediately ahead, then, there will continue to be particular problems — difficult, although not fundamental problems — which will

complicate our economic relations with the United States. Canada will continue to diversify its trade, with a view to becoming less dependent on the United States market. The United States will, however, undoubtedly remain Canada's most important trading partner and it would, in my view, be a mistake not to exploit fully the possibilities of that market. The relation will also be complicated, no doubt, by a continuing discussion within Canada of the problems of foreign ownership, with the United States as a generally sympathetic bystander. In international discussions, I foresee no serious complications likely to arise between Canada and the United States so far as the search for an improved international monetary system is concerned. As for international trade, Canada will continue to look to the United States for leadership in moves towards non-discriminatory multilateralism to minimize the effects of the formation of trading blocs like the EEC. The Government has already declared its support for the Administration's proposal that there should be a new round of international negotiations for this purpose.

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At a more fundamental level in our political relations with the United States, an extremely interesting pattern is emerging. All of us students of the relation are conscious that basic shifts have been taking place in the world view of both countries. The implications of these shifts are only beginning to become apparent. I suspect we will spend the rest of the Seventies working out some of their implications. In the process, Canadians may find themselves giving up a good deal of the conventional wisdom about relations with the United States. It seems obvious to me that the options for Canadian-American relations, and for Canadian foreign policy generally, are already proving to be markedly different from what they were even five years ago. In a world where the two super-powers conceive their roles with a new and refreshing sense of limitation, and where new power centres are arising, the smaller countries, freed from the constraints — and perhaps deprived of the advantages — of alliance diplomacy, have freedom to manoeuvre unprecedented in this generation. Anxious to assert its identity and to diversify its contacts and its markets, Canada will surely find this a world of opportunity. To a visible extent we have already done so. Without immodesty we can claim to have led even our great neighbour to take advantage of some of the opportunities of this changing world. To the extent we take advantage of this world — created in part, let us remember, by the constructive action of the United States itself — we ought surely to find relatively greater fulfilment, and correspondingly less frustration, in our international role. And this in turn ought to help us come to grips with the inevitable problems of the Canadian-American relationship with wisdom and equanimity.