

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES



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SOME ASPECTS OF THE WORLD WHERE CANADA WORKS AND TRADES

A Statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs,
the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, at the Canadian Business
Outlook Conference, Vancouver, May 11, 1972.

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...I shall try to describe some of the situations and trends to which we must accommodate ourselves, speaking briefly about relations with the Third World and the Communist world, and at greater length about relations with our principal trading partners -- above all, of course, the United States. And I shall try to relate the domestic to the foreign scene by showing how the Government is pursuing national goals and objectives in the international context.

In the first decade after the war, a new international order emerged. In the second, this order achieved a certain familiarity and stability. But, just when we had become accustomed to it, the changes which had been working below the surface all the time began to manifest themselves. In the last three or four years, we have become aware of just how profound these changes are. We realize, when we speak of "the Seventies" in international affairs, that we are talking of something which, if less than a concept, is more than a slogan.

The changes which have now emerged will be familiar to you. They include the transformation of the Cold War relationship, the re-emergence of China upon the world scene, the evolution of a reconstructed Western Europe into a new focus of political and economic strength on a world scale, the dramatic confirmation of Japanese economic strength, and the consolidation in independence of the emerging Third World. Twenty years ago we were justified in thinking that we lived in a bi-polar world. International politics then were dominated by the United States and the Soviet Union. The military alliances led by the two super-powers confronted each other across Europe and Asia. China was in the earliest stages of Communist power, Western Europe and Japan barely launched upon reconstruction, and much of the developing world still under some form of colonial rule.

Now we are conscious of living in a multi-polar world. The United States and the Soviet Union are still super-powers, of course. Obviously, they are great powers in a sense that China, Japan and Western Europe are not -- and may, indeed, never become. But they are super-powers with a difference -- more aware of the limitations of their power than they were ten and 20 years ago.