

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES



As populations have expanded as technology has advanced, as economies have developed and natural resources have been exploited more and more, the economic activity has spilled more and more across national boundaries. In Canada we are particularly aware of this trend, and of the international corporation which is its most significant symbol. The international corporation has its headquarters in one country, but typically it operates in many; its capital and personnel are likely to be multinational; it attempts to rationalize production and distribution throughout the area in which it operates and to which it brings the benefits of efficiency, knowledge and progress.

INFORMATION DIVISION
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No. 67/1 CANADA AND THE WORLD ECONOMY

Speech by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, to the Vancouver Board of Trade, January 18, 1967.

...In this, the centennial year of Confederation, Canadians everywhere have an opportunity, and a responsibility, to take a hard and searching look at where we have come, where we are, and where we are going. It is in this spirit that I speak to you this evening.

In particular, I wish to speak about the present and potential economic role which Canada plays in the world.

No nation can do justice to itself, or its citizens, or the world community of which it is a part, unless it develops its economic potential to the full.

At the end of our first 100 years as a nation, we must be thankful for the high degree of economic prosperity which is ours and which has placed us among the leading nations of the world. Now, if I may borrow a phrase from the title of that very fine book published by the Canadian Confederation Centennial Committee of British Columbia, we face, not only in British Columbia, but in all of Canada, a real "Challenge in Abundance".

The challenge is threefold: to go on realizing our abundance more fully; to ensure that the benefits of our abundance are enjoyed by all; to see that our abundance is used effectively in the service of mankind, and in accordance with lasting human values.

It is hardly necessary to emphasize to you, members of this city's Board of Trade, that the first responsibility for meeting the challenge of economic development in this country rests with private initiative and enterprise. Yet the role of government, and certainly the national Government, is vital if economic growth is to be maintained. Nowhere is this more true than in the field of relations between Canada and other countries.

One of the most striking features of the past few decades has been the extent to which the interests of nations have become interdependent. We have always, of course, been affected by the actions of others. But now the earlier simple and limited relations between states have given way to a complex and pervasive system of interrelationships which any government ignores at its peril.