

Whatever China's relative position in economic or military terms and however the Chinese leaders see their own role on the international scene, China is already a super-power politically. This is a result, as I have suggested, of a consensus of world opinion. It would appear that China is seeking a position of leadership in the third world. This is a development that must be watched carefully. The three-cornered world may not be much safer or easier to live in than the bi-polar, but it is more realistic. Without the participation of China the nations of the world could not possibly reach agreements on security, disarmament and arms control or nuclear testing that would be universal in application. With China in the equation at least it is possible, if not in the short run very probable.

China has made clear on numerous occasions that it will not join the United States and the Soviet Union in a great power hegemony -- even if either or both of those powers wished that to happen. China is committed to universality in seeking settlement of disputes and working toward the great objectives of peace, security and reasonable universal prosperity. What this means remains to be seen. From a Canadian point of view the prospect is welcome.

World experience in the years of confrontation should have taught us all that governments with whom we have disagreements do not disappear or change their ways because we ignore them or keep them at arms length. Certainly Canada has learned this lesson and learned, too, that people under oppressive rule are not generally helped by sending their government to Coventry. The opposite is more likely to be the case. From our own experience, Canada has learned that world peace, security and prosperity are best served by maintaining continuing contact with all the countries of the world whatever their political systems or attitudes. Such contact does not imply approval. We have contact with the Portuguese Government but they are in no doubt of our firm position against their colonialist policies in Africa. This affects the relationship, sometimes in material ways, but it does not destroy the contact. We live in an inter-dependent world where it is unrealistic and destructive to close ourselves off from whole countries because their ways are not our ways.

Voices have been raised, crying that reciprocal visits with the Soviet Union, the Protocol on Consultations we have with that country, our recognition of the Peking Government and the support we gave to bringing the People's Republic of China into the United Nations indicate a move away from our traditional friends and the beginnings of anti-Americanism. This is absurd. Canada has always sought