

major nuclear power. China has publicly repudiated the super-power role. But at the United Nations and in the world at large this role is being accorded to it.

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, the world of the former colonies and developing countries. This is a development that must be watched carefully. A multi-polar 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.

Voices have been raised on our shared border, 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 diversification in its international relations, to play its own part in the world. The last four years that have seen our contacts with the countries of Eastern Europe multiply and mature have also seen us increase very materially our commitment to the countries of Black Africa, of both English and French expression. I was the first Canadian foreign minister to visit Black Africa. In the same period we have developed new relations with the nations of the Pacific. With Japan, we have a Joint Ministerial Committee that meets annually. Our interest in Indonesia and Malaysia is increasing. We are in constant bilateral contact with Australia and New Zealand, formerly seen principally as fellow-members of the Commonwealth. Never before has there been such a careful and deep cultivation of our relations with Western Europe.

The Government of Canada has had a completely fresh look at our relations with Latin America, which has led to an important strengthening of Canadian participation in the inter-American system. We now have permanent observer status in the Organization of American States, with a resident ambassador. We have become members of nearly all the constituent agencies of the inter-American system. We joined the Inter-American Development Bank last week, and shall be contribution \$100 million to the Bank over the next three years.

In the light of this broadening of our world-wide interests, it is unacceptable to suggest that Canada is turning away from the United States. Some observers have suggested that Canada is trying to "disengage" from its southern neighbour. Nothing could be further from the truth. Diversification of relations does not imply disengagement from our community of interest with the United States. What is possible and desirable, and what we are doing, is to avoid drifting into total dependency upon the United States by suitable domestic policies and by developing closer and more effective relations with other countries -- some of them among our oldest friends, others with whom we co-operate despite deep differences in policy and philosophy.