

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES



CANADA

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 72/10

CANADA'S UNIQUE RELATION WITH THE UNITED STATES

An Address by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, to the Buffalo Area Chamber of Commerce, Buffalo, New York, May 9, 1972.

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We who live on the shores of the Great Lakes know from experience that any attempt by one partner to gain more than a temporary advantage at the expense of the other is self-defeating. We instinctively reject the doctrines of narrow economic nationalism that from time to time become popular in our two countries as cures for unemployment.

President Nixon paid us a very welcome visit in Ottawa a few weeks ago and in the course of a speech to both Houses of Parliament summed up very succinctly what I am saying to you now:

"It is time for Canadians and Americans to move beyond the sentimental rhetoric of the past. It is time for us to recognize:

- that we have very separate identities;
- that we have significant differences;
- and that nobody's interests are furthered when these realities are obscured."

He also had this to say:

"Our policy toward Canada reflects the new approach we are taking in all of our foreign relations -- an approach which has been called the Nixon Doctrine. The doctrine rests on the premise that mature partners must have autonomous independent policies:

- each nation must define the nature of its own interests;
- each nation must decide the requirements of its own security;
- each nation must determine the path of its own progress.