



Statements and Speeches

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THE MAJOR AIMS OF CANADIAN EXTERNAL POLICY

A Statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, to the House of Commons Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence, Ottawa, March 19, 1974.

In presenting the estimates of the Department of External Affairs and of CIDA (the Canadian International Development Agency) to this Committee, I shall confine myself to a few major topics of importance to Canada's external relations. This means that I shall leave aside a number of other matters that are also of importance but on which either this Committee has recently had rather full briefings -- as, for instance, on the Law of the Sea question -- or that are moving toward some significant stage in the coming months.

For instance, the structures and relationships in Latin America are going through a period of active reassessment, which we are following with great interest. As the results of this rethinking emerge, I shall wish to take a later opportunity to suggest where Canada might fit into any new hemispheric patterns and proposals.

Energy situation Since last I spoke to this Committee on the estimates of the Department of External Affairs and of CIDA, there has occurred a series of related events with far-reaching and widespread consequences for the world as a whole and inevitably, therefore, for Canada. The major event of this series is, of course, what has been called the energy crisis. In fact, the problems of the supply and price of oil are only the currently most acute symptoms of a much wider problem: the increasing demands made by mankind on the world's food and industrial resources.

When I spoke to you last May, I mentioned the increasing pre-occupation about a prospective energy shortage and associated balance-of-payment questions. At the time, it was clear that the world would have to think hard and rapidly about its energy resources in view of the tremendous annual increase in demand upon these resources, which has been the pattern in recent years. What was not foreseen at that time was that this situation would suddenly become acute with respect to both supply and price, particularly of oil.

The sharp and sudden rise in the price of oil has had extraordinary
