



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 58/38

A TRIANGULAR RELATIONSHIP

Excerpts from an address given on September 30, 1958, by Mr. Sidney E. Smith, Secretary of State for External Affairs, at a dinner in the Hotel Astor marking the official opening of Canada House in New York City.

It requires little or no underlining on my part to emphasize to you the importance not only to Canada and the United States, but to the whole free world, of a continuation and a strengthening of the mutually beneficial bonds at all levels between our two countries.

I can best describe the relationships which I have in mind by using the geometric symbol of the triangle. Here we have evidence in Canada House of the strengthening of the base of the triangle, that is, Canada-United States co-operation. We must not take for granted the maintenance and reinforcement of that base. In fact, by referring to the other two sides of the triangle which are Canada-Commonwealth co-operation and the Commonwealth-United States relationship respectively, we are sketching relationships which are basic to the economic prosperity not only of the countries concerned, but of the world. I reiterate, however, that in speaking to you about the two sides arising from the base, I am neither overlooking nor forgetting the importance - economic, political and social - of the base.

Now let us look at the face of the triangle which represents Canada's relations with the Commonwealth, that unique association of independent states which has emerged from an empire of an earlier day. If geography has given us an intimate type of relationship with the United States, so have history and tradition resulted in a Canadian habit of mind which, though conditioned by a continental environment, looks constantly abroad, in a diverse perspective, on other nations and other peoples from whom we may differ but with whom we also share vital beliefs and ideals.