



# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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## CANADA, FRANCE AND WORLD TRENDS

Address by the Secretary of State for External Affairs,  
the Honourable Paul Martin, at the Annual United Nations  
Seminar at the University of Western Ontario, June 27,  
1966.

I should like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your invitation to speak at this annual Seminar and to extend my best wishes to the high-school students who have assembled here from various parts of Western Ontario.

You are concluding your year's work by far-reaching discussions of world affairs. The subjects under review here - the United Nations, Canada's role in that organization and in world affairs generally and, this year in particular, France and its place in the world - would require several speeches if I were to cover them all carefully.

I have chosen, however, to speak about Canada, France and some world trends in order to comment on some current developments of particular interest and to suggest ways of linking the various subjects you have been studying.

### Canadian Role in World Affairs

The foreign policy of any country and the extent of its activity in world affairs are determined partly by the inescapable conditions of its very existence and partly by the free choice of certain relations and by the decisions made in response to particular international developments and in response to the wishes and interests of its people.

Considering Canada's political origins, location, economic necessities and bilingual and bicultural character, we might say that the absolute minimum of external activity for us would involve relations with Britain, the United States and France and promotion of trade and immigration, even where we have no additional interests.

In fact, our activity in world affairs has gone far beyond that minimum. Whether one considers membership in organizations, range of diplomatic relations, trade and other economic activity, scale of participation in wars or contribution to initiatives towards peace, it is obvious that Canada has chosen a significantly active role.