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WORLD ORDER AND WORLD SECURITY

An Address by the Honourable Mitchell Sharp,
Secretary of State for External Affairs, to
the World Congress of the World Association
of World Federalists, Ottawa, August 24, 1970.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Secretary-General, ladies and gentlemen:

It is my pleasure, personally and on behalf of the Government, to welcome the delegates and guests of this Congress to Canada. We are honoured to have you here. You are already well embarked on a very demanding program, and it is obvious that you have come here with a serious intent to further the work of your Association. At the same time, I very much hope that all of you will have an opportunity to see something of Canada, not just the beautiful surroundings of the capital, but something of Canada's infinite variety of scenery, of culture and of spirit.

I don't have to tell you that Canada is a federal country where jurisdiction is shared between the Federal Government and the governments of the provinces. A hundred years ago, when our constitution was written, government played a relatively small role in the lives of the people and, at least from the perspective of today, it appears that the system worked without great difficulty. The complexity of life in a modern industrial state has raised jurisdictional problems of great magnitude and we have had to learn how to proceed by agreement; we have had to develop new techniques to conduct the national business effectively.

Canada is composed of two great language groups, English and French, and of a multitude of cultures, both indigenous and brought from every nation on earth. The one-third of our people who are French-speaking are much more than a large minority in Canada, they constitute the largest and most significant French community outside metropolitan France and they are an integral part of the mainstream of French culture.

Canada divides into a number of distinct geographical areas: the Atlantic Provinces, the St. Lawrence Valley and the Great Lakes basin, the Prairies, the Pacific coast and the Arctic North. These regions complement one another; they compete with one another, and at times their interests come into conflict.