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CANADIAN FOREIGN POLICY IN RELATION TO CANADA'S EXPORTS

Address by Mr. Howard Green, Secretary of State for External Affairs, to the Canadian Exporters' Association Seignior Club, Montebello, Quebec, October 14, 1959

.... The importance of our export trade to our national economy deserves to be underlined. We export more goods per capita than any other country in the world, and 20 per cent of our national income derives from the sale of Canadian goods abroad. Consequently, no nation has a greater interest in the maximum growth and freedom of international commerce than ours. Unless, in fact, we can continue to develop our sales in world markets, our relatively high standard of living must inevitably fall.

We must, therefore, secure as large a volume of international trade as is possible, and this can only be achieved by providing our customers with goods they want at prices they are willing to pay. You, as Canadian exporters, are serving Canada well in this respect, and I congratulate you for your very considerable achievements. You are doing a good job. It is a job, however, in which you must be able to adjust quickly to changing world situations. I shall speak later of current developments in Europe, and of the question of our attitude to the under-developed countries of the world. Both situations present us with challenges as well as opportunities.

In the Government of Canada the primary responsibility for the promotion of Canadian exports abroad of course lies with my colleague, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, and in speaking to you tonight on the subject of "Canadian foreign policy in relation to Canada's exports", I hope it will not be thought that I am a poacher on his territory. It has been said that international affairs are something, usually unpleasant, which happens to somebody else. It has also been alleged that international affairs are concerned with rather exotic and rarified matters, remote from the practical problems of the workaday world. Perhaps, in another time, this was so, but I can assure you that in our complex postwar world it is no longer the case.