



# Statements and Speeches



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## CANADIAN FOREIGN POLICY: A 1978 PERSPECTIVE

A Speech by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson, to the Empire Club, Toronto, March 2, 1978.

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It is very difficult on an occasion such as this to respond to the suggestion that I talk about Canadian foreign policy in 1978 because there are so many facets to the topic. In the time that is allotted to me it would be quite impossible to do justice to all the matters I should wish to discuss with you and in which you may very well have an interest. Indeed, one of the problems also is that the items I wish to highlight in this overview may not necessarily be those with which you have the greatest concern or the greatest interest. But, if that should turn out to be the case, I would ask your forgiveness. Incidentally, if at any time there are matters relating to foreign policy about which members of the audience would wish to obtain additional information, I should be more than happy to provide it.

What I should like to do today is to give you some impressions, drawn from my own experience in public life, and more particularly as Secretary of State, on the condition of the world today, and also on those things I feel Canada can do something about.

I suppose no audience is more aware than this one that, from the immediate post-Second World War period up until fairly recent times, the preoccupation of almost anyone who was interested in international affairs was the so-called East-West confrontation or the relationship between the Soviet Union and its client states, as they may be called, and the United States and its Western allies on the other side. For a very long time, certainly throughout the Fifties and well into the Sixties, this was the principal concern of most people who had more than passing interest in international affairs. Of course, it remains in many cases a source of concern today.

However, in the last part of the Sixties and throughout the Seventies, we have seen a new and complex dimension added to the world situation. This is described as the "North-South dialogue" — the relation between the developed countries from principally the northern part of the globe and the developing, or poorer, countries, located by in large in the southern part of the globe. I hope to be able to have time to touch on that in more detail in a few moments, but let me simply say here that, as a result of this new dimension, we could very well be said to have "boxed the compass", if I can use a "down-East" expression. We now have a situation in which, in addition to being concerned about those tensions and the efforts to relieve those tensions that exist between East and West, we have a new set of tensions — and they pose a new kind of challenge, particularly to the developed world, through the North-South dialogue.

In each one of the quadrants of that circle there are innumerable major and minor