



CANADA

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CANADA IN THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY

A Speech by the Honourable Mitchell Sharp,
Secretary of State for External Affairs, to
the Canadian Manufacturers' Association,
Toronto, June 3, 1969.

I do not have to tell a group of experienced Canadian manufacturers that Canada depends heavily upon international trade. As a nation, we must export or die. The high standard of living that we enjoy depends on an active market for our products. Our great harvests of wheat and other foodstuffs from farm and fishing-ground, the products of our mines and forests, primary and secondary manufactures -- all these must in large measure be sold abroad. The field in which we are least effective is the one with the greatest potential for maintaining a buoyancy in employment and raising our standard of living, the field of major concern to you, secondary manufacturing.

But don't think I have come to read you yet another lesson on the need to increase your efforts to export -- I used to do that when I was Minister of Trade and Commerce and I am happy to leave it to my colleague Jean-Luc Pepin. I have come to speak to you about Canada in the "global community", and I want to make clear from the start that we are very much in the global community, not just politically but economically as well. Let me illustrate this. Canada's first great object in foreign policy is the prevention of war. Our second great object is to contribute to world stability in general and to the growth of world prosperity in particular.

Any great trading nation knows or ought to know that it can only flourish in a flourishing world economy. Even the United States, the strongest economy on earth, would find its standard of living lowered to a degree unacceptable to its people if world conditions seriously weakened its export trade.

So our two great foreign policy objects -- one political, one rather more economic -- place us in the centre of the global community. It is in this wider community that we must exert our political influence and put our economic resources to work. And we must take it as it is.

Important aspects of our political relations have been discussed in public in recent months as a result of the review of foreign and defence policies currently under way. You heard yesterday, from Jean-Luc Pepin, about Canada's