



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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INTERDEPENDENCE IN THE MODERN WORLD

Address by the Honourable Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, to the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities, Windsor, Ontario, May 18, 1965.

...Some of our Canadian communities are more populous than a number of sovereign states in the world today. Many of them are also a good deal more affluent. All our communities are facing problems that are not too different from the problems that are being faced by sovereign states today -- the problem of carrying forward social and economic programmes that will ensure progress and partnership on the broadest possible basis.

I am sure we have also found that there is no such thing as self-sufficiency in the conditions of the present day. There is no way in which we can insulate our communities -- whatever their size or structure -- from what is happening on the outside. These are the realities of interdependence. They have been brought home to us by the contraction of physical distances, by the impact of modern science and technology, by the vast expansion of our knowledge about the world around us, by the facts of power and enlightened self-interest.

And so, what is happening in the world today is inevitably of concern to all of us -- as individuals, as citizens, and as governments. We are involved, each and everyone of us, in the course of events. It is important, therefore, that we should be aware of the options before us.

It used to be possible, at one time, to think of peace and war as options. But in this nuclear age of ours it is no longer possible to think in that way. War can no longer be regarded as an instrument of policy -- even in the last resort. The only option we have is peace, and all our policies must be predicated on that irreversible fact.

But to say that is not, of course, to discount the existence of tension and conflict in the world. On the contrary, the pace of change in our generation has been such that it would be surprising if it had not brought new ferment and new friction in its wake. The task before us, as I see it, is to direct change along peaceful channels and to devise methods and means by which we can bring situations of conflict, where they arise, within the ambit of peaceful solutions.