

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES



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JAPANESE - CANADIAN RELATIONS

Speech by the Honourable Paul Martin,
Secretary of State for External Affairs,
to the Canada - Japan Society, Tokyo,
September 7, 1964.

It is a great pleasure to address this distinguished gathering. I feel particularly privileged to be able to do so to a group such as the Canada - Japan Society, which represents, probably better than any other organization, the true links between our two countries. No matter how important our diplomats consider their hurrying and scurrying to be, their work would all be in vain if it did not assist in the establishment of ties such as the ones you are maintaining. Your contacts with Canada are what I should call the working-level lines of communication between Japan and Canada.

While it is true that our countries have a number of abstract, ideological ties that bind them (a faith in democratic institutions, love of freedom, respect for social and technological progress and dedication to peace), it is the flow of traffic you conduct across the Pacific that provides the substance for these ties. The economic, trade, educational and cultural relations which you are developing daily between Japan and Canada are, in fact, the life-blood of Japanese - Canadian relations. For ideals are meaningless, even ideals common to different countries, unless they are built upon and put into action by individuals.

We are happy to be here at a time we consider to be a turning-point in the development of transpacific relations. The post-war period in international relations is now a thing of the past. The period of reconstruction that followed the Second World War and was accompanied by a re-formulation of links between free countries is now one of the aspects of the immediate past everyone can take for granted.

New Stature of Japan

Nowhere is this better exemplified, I believe, than in Japan. The pace of activity, the dynamism and zeal I have witnessed on every hand wherever I have gone in the past few days, have left me with the overall picture of an incredibly vigorous country. All the signs of activity we have seen are not

signs of reconstruction, but signs of a most farsighted and deliberate development of a nation. It has been exciting for me to be able to look in briefly on the growth of a modern Japan. Everything I have seen -- from the memorial at Hiroshima to the triumphant Olympic Stadium -- has impressed upon me the dimensions of the new stature Japan has achieved.

The remarkable preparations being made everywhere for the forthcoming Olympic Games have left me with no doubt that this great international event will have a most decisive symbolic value for the Japanese nation as a whole. I have been very interested to note that the symbolic value of the Olympics is deeply appreciated throughout the country. There is, of course, a very good reason for it -- this event will convince the entire world of the tremendous capabilities of this nation and the forward-looking attitude with which these capabilities are being put into action. Above all, I can think of no better place in the world where this event can take place and illustrate so effectively that the post-war era is closed and that a new era of development and imaginative construction is upon us.

In Canada, and in North America as a whole I might say, we too have for some time ceased to think in post-war terms -- even "cold war" is rapidly becoming old-fashioned.

No Contracting of Horizons

But this is not to say that, now that we have entered an era where peace is relatively more secure, now that we are in the throes of exploring the avenues which prosperity can open to us, we can shorten our individual national horizons and seek to exploit the present era of international fluidity for short-sighted, self-seeking national aims only.

For we shall have learned nothing from the past if we do not now realize that the future of every country depends on the future of all countries and we shall have forsaken the future if we forget the lessons of the past and do not act in the interests of mankind.

Japan and Canada are perhaps in a chosen position to awaken the world to the possibilities of constructive interdependence, of meaningful, concerted action among countries who have learned to co-operate, partly through necessity but largely through a common desire to preserve peace in this world. In our respective positions vis-à-vis each other and vis-à-vis our mutual partner the United States of America, we have a unique opportunity not only to influence each other to our mutual advantages but also to widen our perspectives in a significant way -- of the Western Hemisphere through the United States' role in NATO and the OAS, of the Commonwealth through Canada's membership and, perhaps most important of all, of Asia through the respect and admiration Japan is acquiring throughout this continent.

Europeans, Western Europeans that is, have for some time now been moving toward a greater unity among themselves. The Canadian point of view, however, is that such steps toward unity should not stop at continental boundaries. We have consistently supported the idea of an Atlantic Community and we consider

that, through a corresponding strengthening of ties across the Pacific, we can look forward in years to come to the development of a true world-wide community of freedom-loving countries.

A North Pacific Triangle

These are not merely generalizations, they are based on contemporary facts. Ever since the early fifties, both the United States and Canada have recognized the common interest they have with Japan in preserving and strengthening democratic institutions throughout the world. Ever since Japan's admission to the United Nations in 1956, as a result of an initiative with which I am very proud to have been associated, the spheres of co-operation have grown so rapidly, both in number and in substance, that we have now reached a point where we may consider ourselves a unique transpacific partnership -- forming an increasingly visible North Pacific Triangle.

Some years ago a Canadian historian wrote a book tracing the historic relations among Canada, Britain and the United States. He called it the "North Atlantic Triangle" and he showed how important this triangular relationship had been to the three countries concerned. I hope some Canadian scholar will make a similar study of the equivalent situation in the Pacific, where we have a North Pacific Triangle made up of Canada, Japan and the United States.

There are a number of fields in which the importance of this triangular relation in the North Pacific region is constantly impressed upon us. As one immediate example, in only two days' time representatives of Japan, Canada and the United States will meet in Ottawa to discuss the International North Pacific Fisheries Convention to which our three countries are signatories. That meeting serves to underline our common interest in the conservation and exploitation of the resources of the waters which lap the shores of our three countries.

Pacific Pathways of Trade

The Pacific Ocean also provides pathways of commerce between Japan, Canada and the United States. This commerce is of vital and growing significance. For Canada, the United States is our largest market and Japan is the third largest, following Britain, which is our partner in that other triangular relationship I referred to a moment ago. Japan is the second largest market for the United States, after Canada, and North America is, I believe, the largest single market for Japanese exports. Obviously, therefore, the prosperity of Canada, Japan and the United States is dependent to a very significant degree on the maintenance of a healthy, expanding, three-way trade amongst us.

Of course, this mutually profitable trade requires the continued existence of stable and peaceful conditions in the world and in this Pacific region particularly. Therefore, Canada, Japan and the United States have a common concern over any potential threat to peace in the Pacific and a mutual interest in seeing that any international dispute or source of tension is ameliorated. There are such areas of possible conflict bordering the Pacific. In Vietnam, for example, bitter fighting is going on on a considerable scale. Canada is very directly concerned with the situation in Vietnam because we are a member of the International Control Commission which was charged with supervising some aspects of the Geneva Agreement of 1954. The United States is

Paragraph delivered in French

heavily involved because it is trying to help the Government of South Vietnam overcome a military threat to its existence aided and abetted by North Vietnam. Japan, I believe, is concerned about what is happening in South Vietnam because it is vital to its security and prosperity that there should be stable free regimes in the countries of Southeast Asia.

This example (and I can think of others) of the way in which the present relations and future destiny of Japan, Canada and the United States are linked make it clear how necessary it is for our three countries to consult closely with one another. We need to ensure that we clearly understand one another's problems, attitudes and policies in formulating our respective courses of action.

Fisheries Co-operation

I believe we are making considerable progress in this direction. Those who have followed the development of the tripartite negotiations between the United States, Japan and Canada on fisheries will know whereof I speak, for they will be aware that, in spite of the difficulties that remain to be ironed out, the Commissions concerned with these problems have seen within the gradual evolution of a mutual understanding and a common concern for conservation of the world's marine resources. Those who witnessed our efforts to assist our important trading partner, Japan, to gain admission to the OECD will also appreciate the substance of this new partnership, and certainly those who are studying the extensive trading arrangements being worked out between Japan and the United States and between Japan and Canada will not fail to appreciate the underlying foresight and mutual consideration that has characterized them.

At this stage it is worth noting our links with other nations with whom we are associated in other contexts. For Canada, I have in mind such associations as those we entertain with Britain through the Commonwealth. These associations supplement and strengthen, I believe, those we maintain and hope to strengthen with Japan and the United States in a North Pacific Triangle. Similarly, Japan has a special rapprochement with various countries in Asia, which can be of benefit to Japan's associates in other continents. These varied associations make our own ties with your country all the more valuable. For the latter permit us to broaden our perspectives and to gain insights into situations from which we are far removed for reasons either of geography or culture.

I look forward with fervour and hope to the further development of lines of communication with Japan through the North Pacific Triangle that will render our two voices more effective, both with regard to our common interests in the Pacific and to world questions as a whole.

The useful meetings my colleagues and I had with our Japanese counterparts last week were of considerable value, I believe, in furthering this objective. A similar meeting between Canadian and United States Cabinet members took place last April and, as with us, there are periodic consultations among members of the United States and Japanese Governments at regular intervals. I am confident that we are steadily strengthening our North Pacific Triangle. We are building a sturdy structure that will withstand any strains that the future may bring and make an unequalled contribution to international order and prosperity in the Pacific.

The foregoing speech had been preceded on September 6 by the following statement by Mr. Martin during a visit to Hiroshima:

This, my first visit to Hiroshima, is a deeply moving experience. For almost 20 years the name of this city has been etched in the minds of all Canadians, as, indeed, of all men, as a symbol of the suffering and the horror of war. Hiroshima stands as a reminder that the madness of global conflict must never be allowed to happen again. The souls of the 85,000 join in mute testimony to the folly of war, and in fervent resolution that the lesson of catastrophe will not be learned in vain.

But, overwhelming as they are, these have been the least of my impressions in Hiroshima. In reality, the people of this city have offered much more in inspiration than the grim relics of the past. Hiroshima today is a bright, beautiful and modern city, a monument of justifiable pride for all Japan. The citizens of this town have built on the ashes and devastation of war a living symbol of eternal hope, hope in the ability of mankind to learn from the lessons of disaster, hope in the ability of all people to build a new world, a world better for knowledge of mistakes of the past.

A Symbolic Choice

I think there is something symbolic in your choice of a man born on the day the atomic bomb exploded over Hiroshima to carry the torch for the first Olympic Games to be held in Asia. To me this gesture underlines the determination of all Japanese people to forward the cause of peace. It epitomizes the hope that a new generation will make a new start and bring to a weary and waiting world the flame of resolution and dedication. The torch will remind all the world that the principles of fair play and unselfish dedication are not limited to the playing fields of the Olympic Games but must be applied to the most profound lessons of history. These principles alone provide meaning to what would otherwise be incomprehensible, and purpose to what would otherwise be futility.

And yet, Hiroshima means still more. I see in the commerce and enterprise of this city an acceptance of reality which is remarkable. I see a determination that life must go on and that man was born to live not in fear and recrimination but in hope and dedication. There is tolerance and acceptance indeed in Hiroshima's courtesy and hospitality. This city has shown us the strength and character of its courageous citizens. It has more than stoically accepted reality. It has resolved to better reality and build on the lessons of the past for the profit of the future. The inspiration of Hiroshima has encouraged the Japanese people to seek the good in what might have seemed profitless tragedy. The determination of the Japanese to count themselves among the pioneers in the world in the peaceful uses of atomic energy is surely a lesson that history will record to their credit. I must say that it is a source of pride and deep gratification to me that my country has been allowed to share with the Japanese the development of their atomic energy programme. It seems to me that in this participation in the harnessing of the awesome power of the atom for the betterment of mankind, instead of for its destruction, Canada is recognizing the real spirit of the people of this courageous community.

I need hardly remind you that we in Canada stand with Japan in our determination to do everything in our power to ensure that the need to use atomic power for destructive purposes never occurs again. We must do everything in our power to ensure that the weapons of mass destruction are never allowed to fall into new and possibly impetuous hands. Canada has opposed and will always resist any further dissemination of nuclear weapons.

I am moved and honoured to visit this great city. I am moved by the memories it carries of the past, moved by the wisdom and humanity of its people, moved by the inspiration their conduct offers to the world. I am honoured that you have allowed me to share these feelings and this dedication.

Mr. Martin concluded with the following message in French:

C'est avec une grande émotion que j'ai contemplé le monument à ceux qui ont péri ici. Il commémore non seulement les morts de Hiroshima, il est également un symbole pour l'humanité toute entière, de l'espoir que plus jamais, aucun peuple n'ait à subir la même épreuve. La générosité et la souffrance du peuple de Hiroshima est profondément émouvante. J'ai confiance que cet appel sera entendu. La renaissance de Hiroshima qui nous a tant émerveillés sera la promesse du monde meilleur qu'il incombe à nous tous de construire.

Le Canada, pour sa part, a déjà déployé tous ses efforts pour que plus jamais le monde ne soit menacé par la perspective d'un nouveau cataclysme semblable à celui dont cette ville a été le théâtre. C'est une dette que nous avons contractée à votre endroit. Si nous parvenons à l'acquitter, votre sacrifice n'aura pas été vain.

s/c