

STATEMENT DISCOURS

SECRETARY
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SECRÉTAIRE
D'ÉTAT AUX
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EXTÉRIEURES.



NOTES FOR AN ADDRESS BY
THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, THE
HONOURABLE MITCHELL SHARP,
COLUMBUS DAY DINNER DANCE "7
ORDER OF THE SONS OF ITALY,
PATRONATO LODGE, TORONTO,
NOVEMBER 6, 1971.

Mr. Chairman:

I am delighted to be here with you tonight, to be able to take part in your celebrations of Columbus Day. All of us who have our roots elsewhere, whether in Italy or, as in my case, in Scotland, can join in celebrating the discovery of the New World by Christoforo Colombo, a discovery that has given us and our fathers who came here before us a new life, a new freedom and a new home.

I will not waste my time and yours by producing for you tonight the bromides and clichés often considered suitable for occasions like this -- the greatness of the Italian nation, the great contribution made to our national life by Canadians of Italian origin -- all true indeed, but not, perhaps, what needs to be said here tonight. Like all of you, I am here to enjoy the good food, the good wine, the good company.

For a few minutes, let me talk about freedom, not as an ideal -- what could I say to my compatriots who come of the great nation that produced Cavour and Mazzini, and lived through the triumph and tragedy of the risorgimento.

In Canada, to a very great extent, we still enjoy a very basic, but very fragile freedom, the freedom to live our lives without constant surveillance by security forces, the freedom to walk on the streets unmolested. The security of Canadians still resides in peace and order -- rooted in the confidence people have in their free institutions and the will of Canadians to make them effective, rather than in the enforcement of law and order.

The peace and order that guarantees our personal freedom seems to be under attack throughout the world, certainly throughout what we call the Western world. Too often, special interest groups -- and I hasten to add that this is not an Italian specialty -- arrogate to themselves the right to jeopardize peace and order for some group objective that may or may not have great merit.

I need not remind you of the tragic events in Montreal a year ago. In the last few weeks we have seen with our own eyes or on television the deployment of armed guards in our peaceable capital of Ottawa and other Canadian cities on a scale unprecedented in our experience, as we have received as guests leaders of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

The right of free Canadians to demonstrate against people and situations of which they disapprove is not at issue. Many Canadians have suffered, or seen their families and friends suffer under oppressive régimes. Their feelings are to be respected and their seriousness of purpose accepted. Demonstrations have always played a role in the exercise of democratic freedoms.

Yet even a peaceful demonstration may threaten the peace and order of Canada if by sheer weight of numbers it places an impossible burden upon security forces. Or it may be used as a cover by elements in our society that are prepared to see violence used for the sake of extreme political causes which cannot gain acceptance by democratic processes or to promote anarchy.

This right to the quiet enjoyment of life has not been earned by this generation. It is inherited, and there is a duty upon us all to pass it on, strengthened, to coming generations. It is a precious and fragile heritage. It is based on the delicate equilibrium between a maximum of personal freedom and the essential minimum of public order. Let not those who advocate what they regard as good causes jeopardize by excess that delicate balance upon which the good society itself depends.

Things have been happening quickly here at home in Canada, and in the world as a whole, and it is this rapid rate of change that contributes much to current unrest. Many of the assumptions we made in the past have to be re-examined. The accepted patterns have been broken. Canada recognizes the People's Republic of China. Other nations, some of them among our oldest friends like Italy, follow. Peking takes the China seat at the United Nations. President Nixon announces a new economic policy and shock waves are felt around the world, nowhere more than in Canada, the United States' best customer and closest friend and ally.

Within six months the Prime Ministers of the Soviet Union and Canada pay extended visits to each other's countries, a Protocol on Consultations is signed in Moscow and a General Exchanges Agreement in Ottawa. Britain moves towards the European Common Market. The whole pattern of world trade, so essential to Canadian prosperity, seems to be changing. Signs of hope for an end to hostilities in Indochina are offset by a growing confrontation between India and Pakistan.

All of this and much more within the space of a relatively few months.

Small wonder that there are uncertainties as to the future and the course that Canada should follow both at home and abroad.

First and foremost, I am sure you will agree, is the question of how to protect and strengthen the Canadian economy in this complex situation and on that point, I shall say only two simple things.

First, we are not going to strengthen our economy by anti-American policies. It is our destiny and our good fortune to share the North American continent with the richest nation on the earth's surface. It makes good sense to exploit that advantage for all it is worth. It makes good sense to work with the United States for our mutual benefit.

The second point is that in our economic policies we should strive to avoid unnecessary dependence upon the United States by promoting trade and financial links with the rest of the world. This is not anti-American in any sense. It is traditional Canadian policy, which is becoming more and more relevant as Europe and Japan, for example, challenge the predominant position of the United States as an economic power and the Soviet Union looks outward for trade with the non-Communist world.

The effort to diversify lies behind the Prime Minister's visits to the nations of Asia and the Pacific - and our trans-Pacific trade is multiplying apace - behind the constant consultations my colleagues and I are having with European governments and the European Economic Commission, behind the exchange of visits between our Prime Minister and Mr. Kosygin. None of these activities is anti-American in intention or effect. They are in pursuit of Canada's best interests. The economies of Canada and the United States are interdependent to an extent unequalled and unprecedented. It would be to the interest of neither nation were Canada to become an economic satellite of the United States.

I have dealt with Canada's economic interests first, since they represent solid realities that touch us all, that we can identify and measure in dollars and percentages. But Canada would be a poor country and I certainly would not be the Canadian Foreign Minister if we saw ourselves as no more than a business enterprise.

Canadians and Americans of all kinds of origins have shared this continent with its native inhabitants since before there was a Canada, since before there was a United States. Christoforo Colombo opened a new world for the Spanish in the South, the French in the North, the English on the Atlantic seaboard. In this impressionistic and highly unreliable sketch of the settlement of North America, I must not overlook the prudent purchase of a rocky island at the mouth of the Hudson River by the Dutch. The Italians, showing their usual good sense, avoided the wars of conquest and the power plays on this continent, and calmly infiltrated the lot, to the ultimate benefit of all.

North of the Rio Grande, this continent is shared by the people of Canada and the people of the United States. Canadians and Americans are proud peoples. They cherish their

independence of each other, and the particular traditions and differing institutions that give independence meaning.

As we cherish our differences, even more we cherish the shared ideas and goals that unite us. This simple but profound fact overshadows the constant conflicts of interest that arise between us. Conflict is a function of contact. Canada has very little in the way of conflict with Mongolia: our relations with that country might be regarded as a model for all nations if we were to overlook the fact that our contact with the people of Mongolia is almost non-existent. Should changing circumstances bring us into close contact with Mongolia, I can guarantee you some pretty good conflicts of interest within a very short time. No two nations in the world have so many contacts at so many levels, official and unofficial, as Canada and the United States. Essentially, these contacts serve the common interest but no matter how busy Secretary Rogers and I are with the oilcan, constant contact leads to constant friction and the generation of frequent heated exchanges.

In a recent far-reaching statement on Canadian foreign policy, the Government had two things to say about our relations with the United States. That the United States is our closest friend and ally and will remain so. This I have discussed with you. And that the central problem for Canada is how to live in harmony with, but distinct from, the most powerful and dynamic society on earth.

For a generation, and until very recently, the world was locked in a sterile East-West confrontation, with China obsessed with its own internal difficulties and playing little part on the world stage, the nations of the third world engaged in a life-and-death struggle for survival.

Suddenly, Peking sits on the Security Council. President Nixon prepares to visit the two great communist capitals, Moscow and Peking. The Soviet Union accepts a better arrangement between the two Germans, responds after years of inaction to NATO urging for balanced force reductions in Central Europe, promotes a European Security Conference, engages in strategic arms limitations talks with the United States, calls for a world conference on disarmament.

I cannot discuss all of these developments with you tonight, nor can anyone, I believe, be sure what they all mean for the peace of the world and the well-being of all men.

What is clear is that power relationships frozen for a quarter of a century are in the process of change and that trading patterns and monetary arrangements laboriously established

are in flux. In these new and perhaps unsettling but at least hopeful circumstances, Canada is determined to preserve its sovereignty and its independence while, at the same time, refusing to remain locked in cold-war attitudes that have lost at least a part of their meaning and their importance. Canada welcomes the human face being shown by nations like the Soviet Union and China. Past history should not be forgotten but it should not be allowed to impede careful, prudent movement toward a saner and safer world equilibrium.

One thing seems to be clear, that the emergence of China on the world scene and the presence of China in the Security Council will make it more difficult for the United States and the Soviet Union to settle matters between themselves. Only time will tell whether this is a healthy development in international relations. Although it will certainly have the effect of making the settlement of issues more difficult to achieve, settlements once reached may well prove to be more effective and more enduring.

In my remarks this evening, I have travelled a long way from this hall and from our reasons for being here. I have tried to show you a little of the changing world as Canada sees it. I hope I have given you some food for thought. Without further ado, I offer to all of you in this room and to all Canadians of Italian descent my thanks for all you have contributed to Canada and the Canadian way of life. I salute you all on this day of Christopher Columbus and so -- on with the dance!