



Statements and Speeches

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THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA -- DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES, DIFFERENT IMPERATIVES

Remarks by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, at a Dinner for the United States Secretary of State, Dr. Henry Kissinger, Ottawa, October 14, 1975.

Mr. Secretary, Mrs. Kissinger,

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This evening could have been devoted to a working dinner; but I felt it would be more useful to bring you in contact not only with members of the Government and officials, but also with members of the Opposition and citizens from all the regions of Canada. Around this table, Mr. Secretary, we have a cross-section of the Canadian people involved in a variety of ways in the very close and diversified relationship that exists between our two countries.

During our talks tomorrow, we shall be exchanging views on the international situation. In this way we shall be participating in the process of the building of a lasting structure of peace and security, the main aim of your foreign policy.

As a student of history, Mr. Kissinger, you are aware of the inherent instability of any world order that is too heavily weighted in favour of a given country. As a citizen of the United States, you recognize the need for pragmatism and flexibility in the conduct of foreign affairs -- principles that, I hasten to recall in the spirit of your country's bicentennial celebrations, Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson, each in his own way, made the cornerstone of the United States foreign policy.

What you seek to achieve, Mr. Secretary, was well described in a speech that you made in New Delhi last October. Allow me to quote from it:

"Our goal is to move toward a world where power blocs and balances are not dominant, where justice, not stability, can be our overriding preoccupation, where countries consider co-operation in the global interest to be in their national interest. For all that has been achieved, we must realize that we have taken only the first hesitant steps on a long and arduous road...."

This goal, which induced the United States Government to recast its diplomacy in a multi-polar framework, is very similar to our own. Of course, we do not emphasize the same elements in the evolving power structure; nor do we necessarily draw the same policy conclusions from the same elements. For we are distinct societies, each with its own history, array of national interests and bevy of domestic constraints. But there is no doubt in my mind that the current evolution of United States foreign policy allows Canada to implement its own policy of diversification -- what we call the "Third Option". That is, an attempt to develop further and deepen our relations with other countries of the world while moving on with our very close and valued links with your country, the first and the most important among all our partners.

Thus, we hope to play a role on the world scene that corresponds to Canada's aspirations and resources. As you have stated many times yourself, leadership, in the international community, cannot be the burden of only one great power; I would add that leadership equally cannot be the exclusive prerogative of the great powers. Thus it should be considered quite normal for middle powers and even small countries to participate in the resolution of international problems, or in the de-fusing of localized conflicts. This form of leadership sometimes carries risks; it is nonetheless necessary to assure humanity's constant progression towards the new political and economic order to which all peoples aspire.

On occasion we in Canada have been able to play a leading role in world affairs. We have done so with your sympathy and understanding, and we are confident this will be so in the future. That a middle power bordering the world's strongest power can act freely and independently is high tribute to the maturity of our bilateral relationship and our conception of international relations.

Our shared heritage of North American development, our joint achievement of the largest bilateral trading relationship in the world, and similarities in our basic values, have all contributed to our healthy and mutually beneficial relationship. That each government responds from different perspectives to different imperatives only serves to underscore the significance and the soundness of maintaining good relations and of our mutual accomplishment in the maintenance of continued good relations. Indeed, the mutual respect, enormous goodwill and undeniable benefits accruing to both countries as a result of the successful co-operation of our societies point up the unique importance of our relationship, no matter from whose perspective it is viewed.

As a Canadian, I have become increasingly conscious of Canada's

distinctiveness, as well as of its capacity and determination to chart and control its chosen course.

As a Member of Parliament and Minister of the Crown, I am particularly aware of the interests and priorities of the Government of Canada. I refer particularly to:

- (1) assuring stable economic growth and thus jobs for Canadians and adequate incomes for their efforts;
- (2) combating inflation, so that these are not dissipated;
- (3) stimulating the development of our manufacturing sector, especially of those industries that have a high technological base;
- (4) assuring a rational development of our own energy resources, so that long-term domestic needs can be met;
- (5) deriving significant benefit from foreign investments in Canada;
- (6) strengthening the economic base for developing cultural expression;
- (7) diversifying and expanding our foreign trade and other economic relations.

But, as Foreign Minister, I am struck by the interdependence of the world's political and economic entities, by the need for nations to take reasonable account of each other's legitimate interests, and by the heavy burden upon us all to work unremittingly for the elusive balance between safeguarding the vital interests of one's own nation and avoiding injustice and prejudice to the proper interests of other nations.

Canada and the United States, because of our complex and varied interrelations, inevitably and frequently make decisions that affect the interests of the other. Perhaps now more than ever before.

The challenge we face, constantly, is to keep abreast "conceptually" of the changes that have taken place or will take place in our relationship, so that mutual understanding is based on reality rather than fiction or emotion, past or present -- so that this understanding effectively bears upon the resolution of bilateral issues.

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