

# STATEMENT DISCOURS

SECRETARY  
OF STATE  
FOR EXTERNAL  
AFFAIRS.

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EXTÉRIEURES.



STATEMENT ON MOTIONS BY  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,  
THE HONOURABLE MITCHELL SHARP,  
IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,  
MONDAY, JUNE 14, 1971

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INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

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Mr. Speaker:

Returning to the House after two weeks of meetings in Lisbon, Paris, Washington and New York I have a number of important matters to report.

On Friday at the United Nations in New York I had a meeting with the Secretary-General and Mr. Kittani, Assistant-Secretary General for Interagency Affairs who has been co-ordinating the United Nations relief efforts in East-Pakistan and West Bengal. This afternoon I will be seeing the Indian Foreign Minister, Mr. Swaran Singh. I hope to report to the House on these conversations at an early date.

My colleague the Minister of the Environment has reported to you on the Joint Ministerial Meeting on Great Lakes Pollution in Washington last Thursday, at which I led the Canadian delegation. The Canada-United

States Agreement that we will be negotiating in the next few months calls for intergovernmental co-operation on an unprecedented scale, involving as it does the Governments of Canada, Ontario and Quebec on our side of the border, of the United States and 5 Great Lakes states on the other.

I must say, Mr. Speaker, that I was impressed in Washington by the way all interested parties accepted their responsibilities for the reversal of the degradation of the Great Lakes, by the shared determination to get on with the job and particularly by the sense of urgency expressed by speaker after speaker.

We are already at work on the problem, on both sides of the border. The Agreement, when it comes into effect, will establish specific goals, speed up the work and provide powers to the I.J.C. to carry out the necessary surveillance to ensure that quality standards are met and maintained.

While in Washington, as I indicated to the House earlier, my colleague the Minister of the Environment and I had a meeting with Secretary Rogers on the proposed movement of oil from Prudhoe Bay to Seattle through the Straits of Juan de Fuca and the Straits of Georgia. I made

clear to Secretary Rogers that my purpose was not, as some have suggested, to promote the so-called "Mackenzie Route" but rather to impress upon the United States Government its common interest with Canada in the avoidance of a major pollution threat to what my colleague the Minister of the Environment described as "essentially an inland sea around which are population concentrations and substantial economic interests as well as features of great natural beauty and recreational value".

I impressed upon Secretary Rogers that the movement of oil through these waters offered no economic benefit whatever to Canada, while imposing upon Canada almost all the risks of oil pollution. We cannot prevent it legally, we can expect the United States to share our concern and to join in doing everything possible to avoid catastrophe.

Mr. Rogers undertook to let me know very shortly about arrangements for special joint studies into this environmental problem. In return, I agreed with him that such joint studies could include oil pollution problems on the Atlantic Seaboard where the movement of tankers to Canadian ports could threaten their environment. I am satisfied, Mr. Speaker, that our views are being made known in a way as to have a bearing on United States consideration of the matter before final decisions are taken.

At the NATO Foreign Ministers Meeting in Lisbon the Alliance concentrated on the very real movement towards détente between East and West that was foreseen at the December meeting in Brussels. This return upon many years' careful planning, and probing of Soviet intentions, is bringing a new sense of direction to the Alliance, away from confrontation and toward negotiation. As in Washington later, I had the sense of participation in an historic event.

Progress in the four power talks on Berlin enabled ministers to express their hope that before their next meeting in December those negotiations might have reached a stage where multilateral conversations leading toward a security Conference could begin. This confirms the importance the Alliance attaches to a satisfactory outcome of the Berlin talks, to create the necessary climate for the resolution of wider European problems.

The principal issue at the Meeting was the Alliance's proposal for mutual balanced force reductions. After some years of silence recently there have been strong indications of Soviet interest. Mr. Brezhnev's speech in Tiflis in April, the conversations the Prime Minister had with Soviet leaders in Moscow and Mr. Brezhnev's speech of of last Friday strongly suggest that the Soviet Union is

adopting a more forthcoming stance on force reductions.

The Ministers agreed that further clarification is needed to establish if enough ground exists for negotiations to start. Ministers agreed that their governments would continue to intensify explorations with the nations of Eastern Europe on a bilateral basis. They also agreed that Deputy Foreign Ministers or other senior officials should meet in Brussels at an early date to review the results of the exploratory contacts and to consult on the substantive and procedural approaches to M.B.F.R. Canada supported these moves and called for more direct action. In response to a Canadian proposal Ministers expressed their willingness to appoint at the appropriate time a representative or representatives to conduct further exploratory talks with the Soviet Union and other interested governments. Let us hope that the response from the Soviet Union and its allies will show an intention to negotiate actively and without delay on this issue of vital importance to security and stability in Europe.

I took advantage of my presence at the meeting to have bilateral talks with some of my colleagues from member nations. Of special interest to the House will be the frank and forthright talk I had with Mr. Patricio,

Foreign Minister of Portugal. I made clear to him the firm attitude of the Canadian people to Portuguese colonial policy in Africa. I gave him a report of the conversations I had with black African leaders in March. I urged Portugal, as I have done on previous occasions, to move toward self-government for its African territories in its own interest as well as in the interest of humanity as a whole.

From the NATO meeting in Lisbon I went to the O.E.C.D. Ministerial Meeting in Paris, at which I was accompanied by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

The meeting concentrated upon the economic outlook, the establishment of a high-level group on problems of trade liberalization, and development assistance. On the economic outlook the mood was one of restrained optimism. A better rate of increase in GNP for member nations was foreseen, particularly in North America. I was struck by the extent to which member nations share common preoccupations and problems, unemployment, inflation and threats to the physical environment. These will continue to plague us and the meeting found no easy solutions. Ministers agreed without dissent that full employment cannot be bought at the price of inflation. The need to break the inflation psychology was stressed and I urged the organization,

as a body above domestic politics, to continue and intensify both its studies of the problem and its efforts to increase public understanding of the insidious dangers of inflation.

There was a full discussion of the Secretary-General's proposals for the creation of a high-level group to assess current problems in international trade, to consider how these problems might be met, and to set out various options for their solution. The Secretary-General's initiative was also aimed at maintaining the high degree of liberalization achieved in international trade and the prevention of backsliding. This initiative received very wide support and Ministers agreed to the creation of the group. I made clear our intention to contribute to the work of the group and our expectation that it will pave the way for further progress in multilateral trade without infringing on the responsibilities and prerogatives of the GATT. This last point was developed by most other speakers and is reflected in the communique.

I would now like to table copies in English and French of the communique issued after the NATO and OECD Ministerial Meetings.