



The Canada UK Colloquia

Canada-UK Relations Shall We Dance

Montebello, Quebec
27 - 30 September 1994

**Introduction/report
Programme**

Academic

CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION *HAUT-COMMISSARIAT DU CANADA*

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LONDON W1X 0AB

Tel: 071258 6691

ISSN-0269-1256

CANADIAN ACADEMIC NEWSHEET

No. 45 - Autumn 1994

CANADA-UK RELATIONS: *SHALL WE DANCE?*

**Report on the Canada-UK Colloquium
Montehello, 27-30 September 1994**

Introduction

The Canadian Foreign Minister, the Hon Andre Ouellet, and the British Foreign Secretary, the Rt Hon Douglas Hurd, addressing the recent Canada-UK Colloquium in Ottawa, spoke of the lively present of dealings between Canada and Britain, and of new energy following a traditional path.

A characteristic of Canada-UK relations is the extraordinary amount of bilateral business and contacts there are, mostly unseen and unsung. The Canada-UK Colloquia are part of that "lively present", and deserve wider recognition for the work they do in nurturing exchange between the two countries.

The Canada-UK Colloquia hold annual bilateral meetings, usually on social and economic issues. Every five years, as was the case this year, the focus is on Canada-UK relations in the wider international context. The title of this year's Colloquium was *Prosperity and Stability in the International System: Canada-UK Cooperation in the Post Cold War World*. The meeting was chaired by Senator Allan MacEachen, former Secretary of State for External Affairs, and currently Co-Chair of the Special Joint Parliamentary Committee reviewing Canada's foreign policy, the report of which is due to be published in mid-November.

The programme of the Colloquium is given at Annex A. The papers presented and a summary of the discussions, edited by Peter Lyon, are to be published in Spring 1995. We thought it would be of interest to give the following preliminary report, written by Vivien Hughes, who attended the

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Colloquium, and to take the opportunity to give further information about the Canada-UK Colloquia and its publications.

It was announced by the Canadian Foreign Minister in Ottawa on 30 September that a Canadian Committee had been established to parallel the British organising committee of the Colloquia, and that Mr James (Si) Taylor, former Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, had agreed to be its chairman. It is planned to broaden the scope of the Colloquia to play a greater part in bilateral affairs.

Report

The Canada-UK Colloquium, held at Montebello 27-30 September 1994, **recognised** that there had been some attenuation of bilateral interests in recent years, but that this had been more than compensated for by the development of opportunities to work together in multilateral organisations. Canada and Britain, though now the two smallest **G7** economies, have disproportionate influence at the summits through their ability to build trans-Atlantic and trans-Pacific bridges, and to operate multilaterally in both restricted and universal contexts, in which they have a shared interest, though not necessarily an identity of interest.

The consensus was that the Canada-UK relationship today finds its principal expression in **working** together in the many global issues which affect the world collectively and countries individually. There are no other two countries which belong to the same number of institutions spanning the globe, and have the same possibility for influence. The Cold War threat has been replaced by a series of unpredictable risks. The pursuit of security and prosperity are thus paramount for both countries.

Britain and Canada have shared history in their bones. There is an ease from long generations of contact between the two foreign ministries. Britain is Canada's second largest market and second largest overseas investor. Bilateral trade figures are rising sharply. British companies are investing in Canada because of the importance of the market.* There are common links and common problems, and few bilateral irritants.

The two countries are nevertheless quite different and have been evolving in unique ways. The UK is closely tied to Europe, and is committed to developing a common regional foreign policy. Canada is enmeshed with its North American partners and is building closer links with other countries in America, Asia and Pacific. The shifting pattern of immigration in both countries leads to different policies and approaches to issues. But the individual strengths and different experiences complement each other. The principal foreign policy objectives are not different. **What** matters is not so much the details but rather what the two countries can achieve together in the world.

Canada and Britain have a **shared** interest in using NATO to extend to Central and Eastern Europe the kind of security we have taken for granted in the Atlantic; in resolving the conflicts in Bosnia and Rwanda; in helping members of

the Commonwealth in their moves towards democracy; in supporting the **transition** to a pluralistic society in South Africa; in the reform of institutions, particularly the United Nations; in strengthening the UN's capacity for preventive diplomacy and peacekeeping; and and in the promotion of human rights.

Canada and the UK are both free traders, with a shared interest in the development of a strong rules-based international trading system. They cooperated on important aspects of the Uruguay Round agenda, although at times - as was the case with agriculture - the cooperation was difficult. The conclusion of the Uruguay Round negotiations averted the danger of the European Union and the United States turning inwards upon themselves. The barriers across the Atlantic are lower than ever before. The same is true for EU-Japan and US-Japan trade, notwithstanding the highly **publicised** differences with Japan. Britain and Canada should now take the lead in matters such as ensuring that standards which are being harmonised within NAFTA are harmonised in a way that does not lead to divergence between NAFTA and EU.

Canada and the UK are both active in the G7, which will hold its 1995 Summit in Halifax, Nova Scotia. It is the most flexible and least bureaucratized of all the international institutions and is a forum for discussion of trade issues before they become **formalised** and part of a broader negotiating agenda. The Commonwealth provides the means of cross-fertilisation with developing countries.

It is vital that the fabric of international consultation woven since the end of the Second World War be safeguarded and enhanced. Frank bilateral exchanges will enhance the, process of mutual understanding and trust so vital for the maintenance of a climate of opinion in which liberalisation continues and the citizens of each region can gain from a wider choice of goods and services. In that environment the businessman will feel encouraged not only to cultivate his own garden but also those of his neighbours.

If any are disposed to think that Canada and Britain having come to the dance together might now be leaving with somebody else, it is probably because they are not talking to each other as much as they might during the dance, and are therefore unaware of the extent of the interests they have in common.

Origins of the Colloquia

The Canada-UK Colloquia were born out of a **desire** to provide for the strengthening of the bilateral relationship at a time when Britain was becoming more involved with Europe, and Canada with the North American continent. The first gathering in 1971 met in the shadow of the Nixon administration's sweeping economic measures of August 1971, which provided a reminder of the towering American dimension, and with Britain drawing closer to its own entry into the European Community in 1973.

That great Canadian internationalist, John Holmes, contemplating spending a term as Visiting Professor in modern Commonwealth History at Leeds

University in 1979, suggested a second colloquium. Coincidentally, it was the same year that Leeds University was designated as a Regional Canadian Studies Centre. With new governments installed in office in Ottawa and London during the middle months of 1979, and some six years following Britain's entry into the European Community, it was an appropriate moment to take stock again. On this occasion however, the agenda included cultural and academic relations, as well as political and economic.

Following patriation of the Canadian Constitution in 1982, there was a conscious effort on the part of both countries to revitalise the bilateral relationship, and this included re-activation of the Canada-UK Colloquia. In 1984, a Colloquium was held at Dalhousie University on *Canada, Britain and the Atlantic Communities: Bilateral Links in a Multilateral World*. Following this meeting the Canada-UK Colloquia were established on a permanent basis, and since then, they have been held annually, alternately in Canada and Britain. The primary agenda for the Canada-UK Colloquia is the sharing of information and experience on matters of public policy of mutual concern to both countries.

The proceedings of each meeting are published. A list of the published reports is given at Annex B.

Organisation

On the British side, the Colloquia has the status of a private company with limited liability, but is also registered as a charitable body. It is run by the membership, which is known as the British Committee, from which an executive board, the Council of Management, is elected annually. For further information, contact: *Allan Hird, Executive Secretary, 26 Elton Avenue, Greenford, Middlesex UB6 0PP. Telephone and fax: 081 864 3010.*

The Canadian side has until this year been run by the Institute for Research on Public Policy (IRPP) in Ottawa. In the coming months, the new Committee will be formed, with Si Taylor as its chairman. For further information, contact: *Peter Dobell, Institute for Research on Public Policy, 275 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1P 5H9. Telephone (613) 237 0143. Fax: (613) 235 8237.*

The Colloquia are funded in part by the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and in part by private sector sponsorship. A list of companies which have given financial support to the Colloquia is given in Annex C.

** A major study of bilateral trade and investment relations between Canada and the UK, including an assessment of the implications of the Single European Market and the North American Free Trade Agreement, was recently undertaken by Peter Buckley, Christopher Pass and Kate Prescott of the University of Bradford Management Centre, and is to be published shortly by Macmillan.*

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MONTEBELLO
27-30 September 1994

**PROSPERITY AND STABILITY IN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM:
CANADA-UK COOPERATION IN THE POST COLD WAR WORLD**

SESSION I: Multilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation

- Speakers: ***Dr Sylvia Ostry***
*Chairman, Centre for International Studies, University of Toronto:
former Ambassador for Multilateral Trade Negotiations*
- Sir Peter Marshall***
Former Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General (Economic)

SESSION II: Regional Trade: European Union

- Speakers: ***Professor Murray Smith***
*Director, Centre for Trade Policy and Law, Carleton University and
the University of Ottawa*
- Mr John R Beck***
*Head of the Delegation of the Commission of the European
Communities in Ottawa; former European Communities 'Representative
at the GATT.*

SESSION III: Regional Trade: NAFTA

- Speakers: ***The Hon Donald Macdonald***
*Chairman, Institute for Research on Public Policy; former Minister of
Finance and Canadian High Commissioner in London*
- Mr Nicholas Maclean***
Group Adviser, Eagle Star Holdings

SESSION IV: Political Stability and Economic Growth: East-West Issues

- Speakers: ***Professor Carl McMillan***
Department of Economics, Carleton University
- Professor Michael Kaser***
Emeritus Professor of St Antony's College, Oxford

SESSION V: Political Stability and Economic Growth: North-South Issues

Speakers: ***Ms Maureen O'Neill***
President, North-South Institute

Professor James Mayall
Department of International Relations, London School of Economics

SESSION VI: Opportunities for Political and Economic Cooperation

Speaker: ***Sir Nicholas Bayne***
British High Commissioner to Canada

SESSION VII: Transatlantic Political Relations

Speakers: ***Mr James (Si) Taylor***
Chancellor, McMaster University
former Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs

Mr David Logan
Assistant Under-Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

SESSION VIII: Addresses by:

The Hon André Ouellet PC MP
Minister of Foreign Affairs

The Rt Hon Douglas Hurd MP
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs