

# U.S. - Canadian Relations Crisis Result of Series of Squabbles

By BRUCE AGNEW  
United Press International

"Today if the United States and Canada, with their common language, common history, common economic and political interests and close ties cannot live peacefully with one another, then what hope is there for the rest of the world?"

-Sen. John F. Kennedy, June, 1957.

Washington - In the best of times, U.S.-Canadian relations are marked by a slight uneasiness north of the border and a slight exasperation in Washington.

The United States and Canada have too much in common to get along without trouble. A U.S. dam project can back up water on a Canadian river. A U.S. tariff can prevent a small baker in Windsor, Ont., from selling his bread in Detroit. A newspaper strike in New York can mean layoffs at a Nova Scotia paper mill.

**An Open Corridor**

A Canadian anti-aircraft missile without a warhead can mean - in U.S. eyes - an open corridor for Soviet bombers.

The inevitable friction is complicated by the fact that Canadians can never forget that their 18.5 million citizens are outnumbered ten-to-one by the population of the friendly giant below their border.

They are quick to react to what they regard as pressure tactics, proud of any Canadian who makes it tough for the United States in negotiating (proud also of Canadian baseball players who make the big leagues, or Canadian actors who star on Broadway), insistent that although they like hamburgers and milkshakes and old American movies on television, they are very different from Americans - they are Canadian.

But underlying the frictions, no matter how angry relations seem, is a deep friendship. It is a relationship the United States shares with few countries.

The current crisis in U.S.-Canadian relations came after a long series of squabbles, not only with the government of Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker but also with the liberal party governments that preceded him before 1957.

Most of the previous differences were over economic and trade matters. But some of the disputes have involved other matters, and have been serious. In April, 1957, the Canadian ambassador to Egypt committed suicide because, according to his embassy, the U.S. Senate Internal Security Subcommittee had made public a charge that he had been a Communist while a student at Columbia university in 1938.

**Charge Disproved**

The Canadian government said the charge had long since been disproved, and the then External Affairs Minister Lester B. Pearson - now Diefenbaker's opponent in the coming election - called the subcommittee action an "intolerable" intervention in Canadian affairs.

Two months later, Diefenbaker's progressive conservative party beat the liberals in a national election for the first time in 22 years.

His campaign had strong undertones of anti-Americanism, though not the bitter strain of resentment which has appeared in some countries. Diefenbaker called it "pro-Canadianism."

Diefenbaker's 1957 election came at a time when U.S.-Canadian relations already seemed to be heading into one of their bump periods.

In the next year and a half, differences arose over:

- U.S. disposal of agricultural surpluses at low prices and under conditions which Canada felt damaged its export markets. (President Eisenhower denied that U.S. special-term sales affected world prices because he said the underdeveloped countries involved could not afford world prices. But a joint U.S.-Canadian committee was set up to conduct quarterly studies of the program.)
- U.S. proposals for quotas

on oil imports. (Canada eventually won exemption from quotas.)

-U.S. imposition of quotas on lead and zinc that cut U.S. imports by one-third. (Eisenhower delayed a decision for further study when the tariff commission first recommended the quotas, but finally put them into effect.)

**Refuses Ford to Sell**

-U.S. refusal to allow Ford of Canada, a subsidiary of the Ford Motor company, to sell 1,000 cars to Communist China. (The United States later promised to take Canadian interests into account, and that same year permitted a Canadian subsidiary of a U.S. firm to sell wood pulp to Red China.)

-Canadian wheat sales to Red China. (They have continued.)

-The heavy proportion of U.S. investment in Canada. (A Canadian study commission reported that in 1955 U.S. interests owned 68 per cent of the Canadian petroleum industry, 51 per cent of the chemical industry, 45 per cent of the paper industry and 95 per cent of the automotive industry. There has not been much change since.)

-Disclosure of the Strategic Air Command's "fall-safe" system and of alerts with nuclear-armed bombers. (Diefenbaker assured parliament that U.S. planes carrying nuclear weapons did not fly over Canadian territory except on special occasions and with special permission.)

During the same period, however, cooperation went along on building the St. Lawrence seaway connecting the Great Lakes with the Atlantic ocean, and Canada and the United States signed the North American Air Defense (NORAD) agreement, unifying their air defense forces under one command.

President Eisenhower and his secretary of state, John Foster Dulles, visited Ottawa in July, 1958. As a result of their talks with Diefenbaker and his cabinet a number of joint U.S.-Canadian consultative mechanisms were created, including cabinet-level committees on defense and economic matters.

But another problem arose. Soon after Fidel Castro ousted the Fulgencio Batista regime in Cuba in January, 1959, the United States began to have second thoughts about where

Castro was leading the Caribbean island.

Canada saw things differently.

**First Embargo Action**

In October, 1960, the United States took its first embargo action against Castro. It was not until December that Diefenbaker stated a position and it was not all the United States had hoped for.

Diefenbaker said Canada would restrict shipments of strategic materials to Cuba and would see that U.S. goods did not reach Cuba through Canadian middlemen. But he said otherwise Canadian trade with Cuba would continue.

Canadian exports to Cuba not only continued but grew, from \$13 million in 1960 to \$31.1 million in 1961; but they dropped off sharply last year when Cuba ran out of foreign exchange.

President Kennedy was popular in Canada immediately following his election, and his goodwill visit to Ottawa in May, 1961, was just that. This was so even though Canada never took up the invitation he extended to join the Organization of American States. But by the time Diefen-

baker ran for reelection last spring, he was convinced Kennedy wanted to see him defeated. Canada also was heading into the economic crisis that resulted in devaluation of the Canadian dollar, emergency tariff surcharges, and the need for \$1.05 billion in loans and credit arrangements with the United States, Britain and the International Monetary Fund.

**Downward Relations**

Relations between the two countries had begun another downturn. They hit bottom Jan. 30.

The State Department that night broke a year-long silence and issued a nuclear policy statement that: (1) flatly contradicted statements Diefenbaker had made in the House of Commons the week before, and (2) said U.S. nuclear warheads were necessary for Canadian missiles and planes under the NORAD and NATO pacts.

Nuclear weapons already were the hottest political issue in Canada. Pearson had called on Diefenbaker to fulfill Canada's commitments and accept them. Diefenbaker had coined the phrase "made-in-Canada" policies, and observers expected him to make it the theme of a new election soon.

The State Department's policy statement landed in the center of an already unstable situation. Diefenbaker's government fell six days later.

By issuing its nuclear policy statement, the United States completely reversed its stance toward Canada. In the past, the United States had been silent in public and politely cautious in private about disputes between the two countries.

The United States last August hinted it would like to have Canada limit its sales of softwood lumber in American markets. Canada said no. The United States demurred.

The United States last December drew up a new oil quota program that left Canada's exemption untouched, but that hinted the United States would appreciate it if Canada voluntarily kept its oil exports within a set figure (higher than ever before). U.S. officials flew to Ottawa to explain the program. Whether Canada would stay within the figure was unknown.

**Releases Details**

Prime Minister Diefenbaker, who was present on the final day of the Nassau

conference between President Kennedy and British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan, prematurely released details of a U.S.-British-Canadian military aid program for India. The United States said not a word.

Even on the nuclear weapons issue, the United States was silent until Diefenbaker revealed that U.S.-Canadian nuclear talks had been going on, and presented a defense analysis suggesting that the nuclear warheads were no longer needed.

U.S. officials felt he had misrepresented U.S. defense policy. They felt they had to get U.S. policy on record. Apparently believing a new Canadian election was coming in any case, and knowing that once an election began they would have to hold silent, they decided to state the U.S. views regardless of the inevitable political reaction in Canada.

Secretary of State Dean Rusk, trying to take some of the bitterness out of the U.S.-Canadian breach Feb. 1, said the United States regretted "if our tone was wrong."

**Stood By Facts**

But he stood by "the facts as we understand them" that

nuclear warheads for Canada's Bomarc-B missiles, North American defense jet fighters and NATO forces were essential to joint defense.

In an issue less important than defense, the United States might well have kept

silent. But the Cuban crisis gave continental defense plans a deadly serious test that was not passed by all elements. U.S. officials apparently decided that Diefenbaker was endangering U.S. security by evading a decision and confusing the issues.

**RED CARPET TREATMENT**

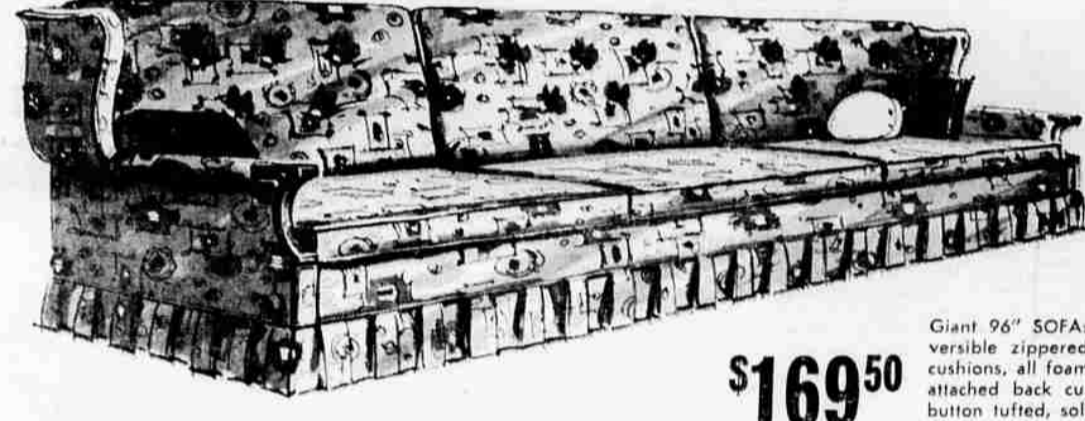
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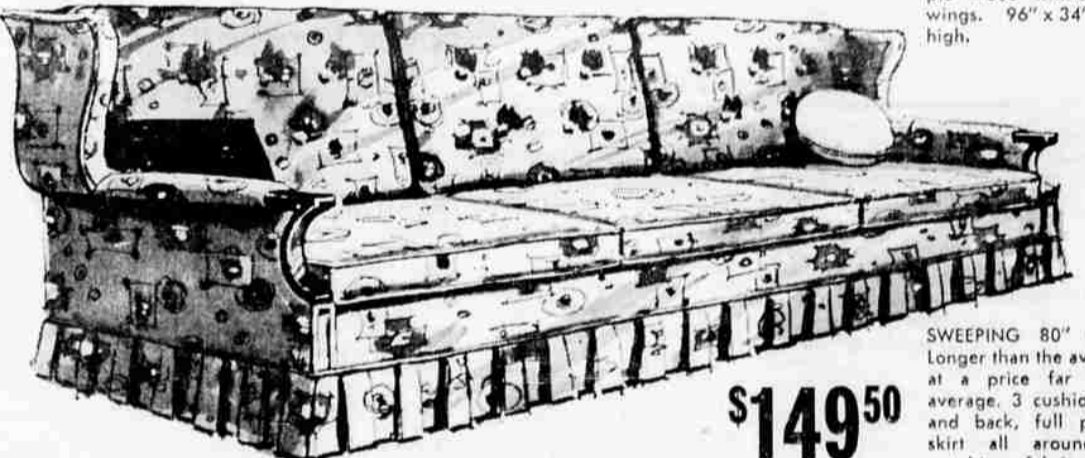
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**First Aid Class**  
Set by Red Cross

The Jackson county chapter of the American Red Cross will offer a standard first aid class at the Chapter house, 60 Hawthorne ave., Medford, beginning Monday, Feb. 18, at 7:30 p.m.

The class is free to the public, however, it will be limited to 20 members.

Persons wishing to enroll in this first aid class may do so by telephoning the Red Cross office, 772-4405.