

the political capacities to try once again to introduce effective multilateralism.

The world has changed from 50 years ago. In the world of the 1990s, political and economic power is increasingly more diffuse. There is now really only one fully integrated superpower with combined political, military and economic might, and it is neither interested in nor capable of unilaterally imposing its will on the world community.

The freer flow of information and ideas has led to a greater belief in democracy and the respect for human rights. The closed society, a distinguishing characteristic of the 1940s and of the Cold War, should become obsolete in the 1990s.

The information and technological revolution has also led to a growing globalization of firms and markets, and increased competition. The 1980s have seen the rise of regional trading arrangements which have centred around the "triad" of the European Community, Japan and the United States.

Welcome or not, international political and economic issues are increasingly intruding on the national agendas of sovereign states.

As national boundaries decline in importance, global problems requiring global solutions increase. Population growth and mass migration, the trade in illicit drugs, terrorism, environmental degradation and illiteracy are only a few of the issues which must be dealt with through effective international co-operation.

But overhanging the international drive to address these issues, in fact often exacerbating their severity, are continuing threats to regional and global security. The present international security environment is unstable and complex. We need to strengthen both regional and global security.

The issues of stability and security are not unrelated. In fact, co-operative regional security structures in the 1990s must address both the symptoms and underlying causes of political and economic instability.

Co-operative security must be more than a product of military might. It must be the result of comprehensive dialogue and planning internationally, regionally and bilaterally.

In the critical region of Europe, Canada has long been active in strengthening regional dialogue and co-operation.

In the aftermath of the Gulf War, it is imperative that there be greater trust and transparency in the Middle East if the region is to find a lasting peace.