

They have authority from their Congress to put any Canada-U.S. agreement on a "fast track", which means an agreement concluded before January 1, 1988 would not be subject to amendment by the Congress. We are looking for that leadership on the American side, and will be providing it here.

There is more to foreign policy than trade, and I want to talk to you today about some of the broader initiatives we are taking. In many cases we are deliberately continuing policies that began under former governments. That is the case in our approach to Central America, the Middle East, and other questions.

However, we came to office believing that the former government had nurtured too narrow a view of the country and, in External Affairs, as in our economic and energy and other policies, we are pursuing initiatives that had not been priorities before.

As a start, we have opened up the processes of foreign policy - to the people, to Parliament, to the provinces. A joint Committee has just reported after the first full public enquiry about foreign policy in our history. We have reconstituted the Consultative Group on Arms Control, established a comprehensive system of advisory groups on trade and sought to involve private citizens and the private sector in the campaign against apartheid. For the first time in history, there is full participation of the provinces in trade negotiations, and provincial Ministers from every region were present, at my invitation, in the delegation to launch a new round of the GATT. Under David MacDonald, we helped the people of Canada contribute significantly to the relief of famine in Africa. The number of women serving as heads of mission overseas has increased. We are trying deliberately, to involve and reflect more of this diverse country in forming and carrying out our international policy.

Let me refer to two substantive questions where our emphasis has changed. One is the North.

Canada is an Arctic nation. Canada's Arctic lands are second in size only to those of the Soviet Union, and our Arctic coastline is the world's longest. Until recent decades, the North seemed to offer few implications for Canada's foreign policy. But the situation began to change as developments in military technology invested the Arctic with growing strategic significance for the superpowers, and later as prospects emerged for large-scale northern resource exploitation and as cooperation increased among residents of circumpolar nations.