

□WHO IN THE WORLD NEEDS CANADA?□

(Excerpted from a speech by The Rt. Hon. Joe Clark to the Couchiching Institute on Public Affairs, August 11, 1985.)

We are a country of some 25 million extremely fortunate people, spared the poverty and disease that ravage most of the developing world. We are also free of the deep psychological scars of having had our own community torn by war, as Uganda has been; and the two Koreas, and the two Germanies, and Russia have been; as the old states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, who were "converted" to Marxist-Leninism by external conquest, have been; and as the United States, after Vietnam, had been.

We are the world's eighth-largest trading nation, with the human and physical resources to grow stronger. Our people have an interest in almost every question in the world. As a nation of immigrants, we come from Sri Lanka and Lebanon, from the Punjab or El Salvador, from Zimbabwe and boats bobbing in the China Sea. As a nation of traders and missionaries, we maintain Jesuit schools in Ethiopia and India and Bhutan, we run leper colonies near Yaounde, our salesmen sell computer software to the Japanese and rapid transit systems to the Mexicans; our investors are constructing bulldozers in Thailand; and our developers are building oil towns in deserts, and irrigation systems almost anywhere there is dry land.

We can also claim to have created the modern Commonwealth. We practically invented United Nations peace-keeping, and have honed our rare skills as peacekeepers in Indochina, in Cyprus and in the Sinai. We helped



establish the multilateral trading system, and are currently one of its most creative defenders. We are, arguably, the developed country most trusted in the Third World, not because we utter moral verities, but because we send Canadian specialists to remote parts of Thailand to teach villagers to inoculate chickens against disease; because our doctors and nurses in that country work at the Khao-I-Dang camp hospitals where refugee children come daily with limbs blown off by mines set by one side or the other.

And yet – and yet – some self-consciousness shrugs off these real accomplishments by Canadians, and returns to the ritual of doubt: "Who in the world needs Canada?"

Not to belabour the point, Valentyn Moroz, Georgi Vins, the Bashchenko and Chmykhalov families and more than 600 other people needed Canada, over the last five years, to secure their exit from the Soviet Union and reunification with family in this country. And there have been nearly 95 000

Indochinese who needed Canada, those who have been admitted to Canada as refugees since 1975. On a *per capita* basis, we have been the most welcoming nation in the world to Indochinese.

- 600 families in the village of Mutara, Rwanda, depend on Canadian-financed irrigation for their survival.
- 80 000 people around the village of Nioki in Zaire depend on Canadian-built medical clinics.
- 12 000 people in Tabakouta, Senegal, support themselves as a result of Canadian development of their banana farms, and
- 30 000 people in the shanty towns around Lima now have clean water because CIDA made \$500 000 available. They also needed Canada.

In Bridgetown, Barbados, there is to be a new fishing harbour because a Canadian company undertook a feasibility study with CIDA financing. In India, hydro-electric plants and new railways are being built, and staff trained to run them, because Canadians saw the possibilities and prepared the groundwork. People in these countries also needed Canada.

So did the discussions on chemical weapons at Geneva, where Ambassador Don McPhail nearly got agreement. So did the committee of like-minded nations dealing with disarmament at the U.N. in New York, known as the Barton Group, after Ambassador Bill Barton of Winnipeg.

If you need further answers to that ritual of doubt, ask children in Ethiopia; ask the Contadora countries; ask the Western group we chaired at the Nairobi Conference; ask the West Germans, who must live daily beside massive armament, and received a strong signal of