

or other desks responsible for important aspects of relations with those countries.

The committee made a very important recommendation in favour of establishing an institution to respond to the needs of developing countries which are seeking to strengthen their democratic institutions and strengthen their approach to domestic human rights. We agree. We are now identifying distinguished Canadians to advise the Government on the form and the mandate this new institution should have.

[Translation]

The Committee attached great importance to the northern dimension of Canadian foreign policy. The government is determined to act vigorously in exercising control of our north. We have affirmed that Canadian sovereignty extends to all the waters of the Arctic archipelago and announced regulations establishing baselines around its perimeter. We are committed to construct an arctic class icebreaker.

Our Northern foreign policy will have four dominant themes: affirming Canadian sovereignty; modernizing Canada's northern defences; preparing for commercial use of the Northwest Passage; and promoting co-operation with other northern nations.

[English]

The Government fully shares the committee's conviction that Canada can and should play a significant role in multilateral institutions. We are working hard to promote the United Nations and to strengthen it by promoting necessary reforms and providing a high level of support. We are now the fourth largest contributor to the UN system, and we play an active and effective role.

Canada, of course, has an especially important role in the Commonwealth and La Francophonie. Next year the heads of Government of both organizations will meet in Canada; La Francophonie in Quebec City in September and the Commonwealth in Vancouver in October. Part of Canada's distinctive identity is rooted in our membership in those two international families, and we intend to make the most of those advantages.

Growing interdependence, "the relentless internationalization of the national agenda", is a major theme of the committee's report. Like the committee, the Government sees constructive internationalism as the only appropriate response to that interdependence. A retreat into insularity would be a tragic mistake. No country can turn back the clock. Interdependence is challenging, yes, but it holds out great opportunities for furthering international peace and prosperity. Just as individuals can accomplish far more by working together, so can nations.

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At the same time we must find room for realism, for perspective and for humility. Canada is not a superpower and our national experience has been extraordinarily peaceful and

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prosperous compared to that of most of mankind. Internationalism calls for a great deal of understanding and perseverance and for a lot of plain hard work.

Few countries are better placed than Canada to make a significant contribution to international order and development. Few other countries have such close ties to so much of the world, ties of history, family, culture and trade. We see constructive internationalism as confidently building on Canada's strengths and traditions. It is, and will remain, the fundamental foreign policy orientation of this Government.

[Translation]

**Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri—Westmount):** Mr. Speaker, first I should like to thank the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) who last night sent me copies of his statement on and response to the report of the Special Joint Committee on Canada's International Relations.

[English]

At the outset I would like to say that there are many elements in this response with which I am pleased. However, constraints of time, as one can appreciate today, oblige me to underline what I regard as specific areas for constructive criticism. *Maclean's Magazine*, as you know, Mr. Speaker, tells us that the Minister is widely considered as an effective and respected statesman. We in the Opposition wish to see him live up to those reviews. If sometimes in the past the Minister's image fell short of the reality, it would be equally unfair, we suggest, if his image should surpass the reality—if he should be painted in a more handsome portrait than he perhaps deserves. If there is, indeed, less here than meets the eye, or meets the ear, then we in the Opposition are duty-bound to draw it to the attention of the public.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, I must say at the outset that in spite of the positive elements of the response, a number of others are a great disappointment to me. Although the response is full of policy statements, especially in the first part, it does not feature fresh creative approaches in many critical fields such as the prevention of the arms race in space, Star Wars as it is commonly called, the drafting of a world-wide treaty banning mutually verifiable nuclear tests, the lack of control over arms shipments, the level of our official development assistance, the Government's timetable to reach an acceptable level, and the role Canada might play in Central America.

[English]

These are the principal questions which I wish to address in the few minutes available to me this morning. First, in addressing the question of the Strategic Defence Initiative, star wars, we find at page 47 of the report a recommendation with respect to the observance of the ABM Treaty of 1972. The committee asks that there be a reaffirmation of the ABM Treaty interpreted strictly as prohibiting all but basic research on defensive systems. The response is moderately positive. Yet, we have insisted, and continue to insist, that the Strategic