

There are foreign policy choices open to some countries which have never been open to Canada. We could never aspire to great power. Our population and our economy are too small. The choices of conquest, or of empire have never been open to Canada.

Nor has it ever been open to us to act unilaterally or alone. On all the important issues, success for Canada has meant co-operation with others.

Look at economics. We are a country of traders. We depend on the international economy as do few others. We need clear rules, open access, stable markets. That means we must pursue our economic interests with others. So we have pursued a policy of more open trade through co-operation with other traders - whether in the GATT, or through the Free Trade Agreement, or through the Cairns Group on Agriculture or the new emerging forum for Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation.

Similarly, in military matters, we have had little choice but to seek our security through co-operation with others. Our land is too large, our air-space too vast, our coast lines too long. In addition, as a middle power, we have always recognized that it is not here where wars will start or peace will be made. Those choices will be made far away from Canada - but we will be either the victims of conflict or the beneficiaries of peace. So we have pursued our security through co-operation - through NATO and NORAD and multilateral institutions such as the United Nations.

Our foreign policy has been influenced by both our size and our situation. We are at the northern end of a continent we share with a superpower. That situation has led to a close partnership with the United States in the search for peace and prosperity. But it has also led us to emphasize our other associations - with our European Allies, our families in the Commonwealth and La Francophonie, our partners in Asia and our other neighbours in this hemisphere. That reaching out is in pursuit of tangible interests - economic, political and military. But it also reflects the desire for a flexibility which is essential to our success as a smaller power whose next-door neighbour is a superpower.

Our foreign policy, therefore, is influenced both by what we are and what we are not. I do not imply determinism. This country has had choices. We could have been less international in our outlook. We could have been less inclined towards co-operation and the search for solutions to international problems. And we could have been less committed to our alliances and to our friends.