



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 68/17

CANADA AND THE WORLD

A Policy Statement by Prime Minister
Pierre Elliott Trudeau issued on
May 29, 1968.

We Canadians found a lot to be proud of in 1967, and also some things to question.

Above all we became keenly aware in our centennial year that significant changes - political, economic, technological - have taken place in the world around us and within the body politic of our own nation. We found ourselves questioning long-standing institutions and values, attitudes and activities, methods and precedents which have shaped our international outlook for many years. We found ourselves wondering whether in the world of tomorrow, Canada can afford to cling to the conceptions and role-casting which served us in our international endeavours of three decades or more.

Those fundamentals of foreign policy did serve Canada well in circumstances of severe testing for us and for the world generally. This country played a leading part in shaping the multi-racial Commonwealth, in promoting and supporting a universal United Nations, and in trying to keep NATO attuned to changing strategic and political requirements. We made a significant contribution to international aid.

We shared the enormous difficulties which have bedevilled, in the post-war era, the best efforts to establish world order on a firm base of political and economic stability. Post-war peace had to be built on the foundations of collective security which were rendered less secure by a radically-spiralling arms race, the urgent demands of suddenly emerging nations, and a prerequisite of keeping accidental sparks of war confined, if not wholly quenched.

There has been a tendency to play upon failures and to be patronizing about successes; to pull down institutions and ideas with nothing very concrete to offer in their place; to over-simplify the possibilities for solving international issues which, even today, are as complex as they are enduring, and to forget that an anxious world was not plunged into either military catastrophe or economic chaos.

There is no reason for running down Canada's post-war record in international affairs. In many respects it was a brilliant record, for which we owe much to the inspiring leadership of the Right Honourable Lester Pearson, both as External Affairs Minister and as Prime Minister.