

ourselves. By example, however, Canada has gained considerable acceptance and respect in the Third World and is thus in a position to exert a reasonable and legitimate influence on how this potentially powerful force will be employed in the shaping of events.

Just as imperialistic pretensions of any kind are wholly foreign to the Canadian character, we cannot accept either any enforced restriction of human rights or any doctrine that serves to perpetuate racial inequalities. The Canadian record at the United Nations and other organizations is one of consistent support for every effort to curb tyranny and oppression and to enhance individual freedoms. No Canadian government could do otherwise, because the Canadian people share a unanimous repugnance of all forms of subjugation. Furthermore, if we and like-minded countries are to be credible in our efforts in such areas as Southern Africa and at the Belgrade Conference, our utterances and our actions must be consistent.

Our acceptance of our share of responsibility for the future of the developing world is an extension of our long-established outward-looking foreign policy. Canadians have always recognized the interdependence of the global community. At first we willingly supported the democratic struggles of Britain and other free world countries as our record in two World Wars clearly shows. Today Canada chooses quite independently to support alliances such as NATO out of a firm belief in the continuing need for mutual security. Also, the Canadian search for a distinctive identity has defined special roles, such as United Nations Peacekeeping, which our position and capabilities enable us to perform effectively.

We have no delusions of grandeur about our role in world affairs; we are not a superpower and there are limits to what we can accomplish; but we are seeing with increasing clarity where Canada fits in the international scheme of things. We have defined priorities and evolved policies which, while sufficiently flexible to meet the demands of fast-changing events, gives us, nevertheless, a clear sense of direction and allows us to make the best use of those strengths we possess.

Central to our policy formulation is the fact that the United States is our closest neighbour. Much has been written and said about Canada-U.S. relations and Canada has been depicted as everything from a satellite of the Americans to an excessively jingoistic country preoccupied with sterile efforts to pull the eagle's tail feathers. Neither assessment, of course, bears any resemblance to reality.

On balance, Canada-U.S. relations have never been better than they are today, despite the unprecedented complexity of many trans-border issues, such as energy and trade. This satisfactory condition is due in large part to the growing clarity with which Canadians are defining and articulating their national objectives and to an increasing American willingness to understand these goals, and to accommodate them where possible. And, of course, there is the inescapable reality that Canada and the United States need each other now more than ever.