

*The Address—Mr. Trudeau*

with those international organizations, particularly the United Nations, of which we are a member.

As we reappraise our place in the world, we need to give careful thought to our relationship with the United States. This government attaches importance to continuing the close and effective consultation we have enjoyed with the United States over the years, and this house is well aware of the numerous institutional arrangements that exist for this purpose. It is essential that this relationship should be pursued with the clear understanding, however, that Canada intends to have a distinctive personality and genuine role in the world separate from that of the United States.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Trudeau:** I need not remind the house of the difficult problems that continually arise to bedevil Canada-United States relations. We must approach the solution of these problems with good sense and with a genuine appreciation of where Canada's real interests lie. I am confident that this motivation of our genuine national interest will be understood and, indeed, in the long run, welcomed in Washington. We, for our part, must also seek to understand the great burdens which fall on the United States by virtue of its leading role in the world, even though we may frequently disagree, sometimes quite strongly, with their policies.

One of the primary purposes of our foreign policy must be to ensure the political survival and independence of Canada. Such a policy should reinforce our national unity. Such a policy we propose to pursue. We propose in these respects to continue the consultations already commenced with provincial governments to establish procedures which take account both of the legitimate aspirations and needs of the provinces and the need to ensure that Canada remains strong and united and speaks abroad with one voice. It is intended that greater advantage be taken of the many opportunities inherent in the bilingual character of Canada to develop further our external, political, economic, and cultural relations abroad.

● (5:00 p.m.)

The review of Canadian defence policy commenced earlier this year is progressing, taking into account recent events, and anticipating so far as is humanly possible the course of world events as they may be expected to unfold.

[Mr. Trudeau.]

The review of Canadian foreign policy is continuing apace. Among other events, plans are now complete for the departure of a ministerial-level mission to South America in a few weeks' time. This mission will be charged with demonstrating to our western hemisphere neighbours the importance which the government attaches to our relations with them, and with the task of studying how best to promote these relations and Canada's interests in this hemisphere.

It is our deeply held view that despite the contribution which external aid has made, and continues to make, to the betterment of conditions in the developing countries, it cannot by itself provide an answer to the problem of the ever-increasing disparities between the developed and developing parts of the world. For this reason, we feel it necessary, while continuing to expand our aid efforts, to devote ever greater attention and energy to the provision of opportunities for these countries to better their lot through their own trading efforts.

In this spirit we are working with others to secure better trade opportunities and international financial arrangements for the developing countries. For example, we are most active in current negotiations for commodity agreements relating to certain tropical products important to a number of developing countries. As well, arrangements are being improved to encourage Canadians to place their energies and talents at the service of developing countries and to provide incentives to Canadian business and industry to participate in development projects.

[Translation]

I would like, Mr. Speaker, to add a few words about the relations between Canada and France.

The Canadian government feels that it is of the utmost importance to maintain and develop the closest ties with France. Those ties are even more important at a time when the government has undertaken to strengthen the rights of the French-speaking Canadians throughout the whole country, at a time when the government has stressed the need to protect the right of the people to get their education and to communicate with the governments in the language of their choice.

We are very happy about the help that France and the other French-speaking countries might want to give Canada to further the French language and culture in our country. But we also want the French government to provide that assistance in such a way that