



# Bulletin

Vol. 25, No. 40

October 7, 1970

## CANADIAN FOREIGN POLICY AND THE THIRD WORLD

*The following passages are from a recent address by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp at the 1970 International Teach-In, University of Toronto:*

In June, I issued on behalf of the Government a series of papers called *Foreign Policy for Canadians*. It is a simple title, yet in itself it states clearly the Government's purpose in instituting a basic, and broadly-based, review of Canada's international relations, policies and operations. This was to examine Canada's foreign policy in terms of our basic national interests, to reach conclusions as to its effectiveness in terms of Canada's position in the world in 1970, to identify areas where change was required and to indicate new directions for the future....

Carrying out the review involved identifying and challenging the assumptions on which Canadian foreign policy has been based. One assumption, however, had to be made - "...that for most Canadians their 'political' well-being can only be assured if Canada continues in being as an independent, democratic and sovereign state". Without this assumption any discussion of a foreign policy for Canadians would be meaningless. Unless we are independent

and sovereign we have no need for a foreign policy.

Unless we are democratic there is no point in public discussion.

The paper continues: "Some Canadians might hold that Canada could have a higher standard of living by giving up its sovereign independence and joining the United States. Others might argue that Canadians would be better off with a lower standard of living but with fewer limiting commitments and a greater degree of freedom of action, both political and economic. For the majority, the aim appears to attain the highest level of prosperity consistent with Canada's political preservation as an independent state. In the light of today's economic interdependence, this seems to be a highly practical and sensible evaluation of national needs."

### DEFINITION OF AIMS

So much said, the Government defines basic national aims as follows:

- that Canada will continue secure as an independent political entity;
- that Canada and all Canadians will enjoy enlarging prosperity in the widest possible sense;
- that all Canadians will see in the life they have and in the contribution they make to humanity something worthwhile preserving in identity and purpose.

The foreign policy review is based on the premise that foreign policy is the means whereby these national aims are pursued in the international environment. I suggest this is a valid premise. Our foreign policy is not identical with the foreign policy of any other country, even that of our closest friends.

Every country has something to preserve and develop that is unique and something to contribute that is valuable and we need have no hesitation in asserting that Canadian foreign policy is directed to the achievement of Canadian objectives, just as the foreign policy of Denmark is directed to the achievement of Danish objectives and that of the Soviet

### CONTENTS

Canadian Foreign Policy and the Third World .....	1
Canada's New Generation of Hydro Plants .....	3
Academic Diplomats .....	3
Talking of Turtles .....	4
Prime Minister to Visit the U.S.S.R. ....	4
Donald Alexander Smith Stamp .....	4
Tariff Preferences for Developing Nations .....	5