how it perceives its aims and interest. External activities should be directly related to national policies pursued within Canada, and serve the same objectives. Diplomatic relations are maintained and strengthened for a wide variety of reasons—among others, trade expansion, collective security, cultural contact, co-operation in development assistance, exchanges in science and technology. Such relationships have to be kept under review to ensure that they continue to serve Canada's objectives effectively. Those may change as both Canada and the world change. In essence, foreign policy is the product of the Government's progressive definition and pursuit of national aims and interests in the international environment. It is the extension abroad of national policies.