

defence requirements to close the gap between Canada's commitments and its capabilities (Chapter 5)—reflect our desire to achieve greater efficiency. We have even sought to extend this principle into the multilateral arena by suggesting the streamlining of international institutions (Chapter 4) and advocating closer co-operation among aid donors (Chapter 7).

Our report takes the following form. We report on our soundings among the Canadian public in Chapter 1, *How Canadians Approach Their Foreign Policy*. We assess the capabilities and resources that Canadians bring to the pursuit of their international objectives in Chapter 2, *Canada's Capabilities*. Eight chapters with recommendations follow, each dealing with a major area of policy. The last chapter, *The Case for Constructive Internationalism*, sets out the positive thrust that we advocate for Canadian foreign policy.

The continuing work of assessing specific elements of Canada's external relations should and will be undertaken regularly in the future by Parliament's standing committees, which can now, for the first time, select the subject matter of their investigations. Indeed, in a number of instances we refer to the findings of several enquiries undertaken by committees of the Senate and the House of Commons. We found them useful, and our hearings persuaded us of the value of a more active role for Parliament. There must be continuous, not episodic, dialogue between governments, Parliament and the public. The occasional general reviews of foreign policy or of specialized areas within it are no substitute for such dialogue. The capacity of Parliament, and particularly parliamentary committees, to serve as a forum for dialogue should be enhanced significantly by the reforms introduced recently. It is now up to the committees of Parliament to demonstrate they can become a focus of ongoing policy debate and a valuable source of advice.