

forces, leave before they can serve in the armed forces. This means that even in the military themselves there is an implication that our foreign policy and the defence policy that flows from it is not one which convinces them that their career, the military career, is a good one.

Well, what should we do about it? Are we spending too much money or are we spending too little? This is the kind of question we have been asking ourselves in Ottawa, this is the kind of question that during the election, last spring, I said that we should deal with in this Government. And we are doing it now. Our first decision we announced last week, and I want to explain to you the significance of it.

These decisions in the area of foreign policy are extremely important then for these reasons, and they are important also because of the objectives. What we want to do with this \$1,800 million is to defend Canadian sovereignty and to contribute towards world peace. Why else would Canadians want to spend money on defence? We don't want to go to war with anybody. These are the aims then of our foreign policy, to serve our national interests, and when I say national interests I am not thinking in any egotistical sense of just what's happening to Canadians. It's in our national interest to reduce the tensions in the world, tensions which spring from the two-thirds of the world's population who go to bed hungry every night, the two-thirds of the world's population who are poor whereas the other third is rich, and the tensions which spring from this great ideological struggle between the East and the West. This is the aim of our foreign policy; it is to serve our national interest and to express our national identity abroad so that other countries know us. They know what we stand for, they know what our interests are and what our values are, in the economic sphere, in the cultural sphere, in the social sphere, in the ideological sphere. This is what our foreign policy is all about.

And this is what we have been examining in the past several months in Ottawa. And some people think it is taking too long. But it will take longer, because you only re-examine your foreign policy once in a generation. You can't switch every year, you can't switch after every election.

We promised during the last election to re-examine our foreign policy, because the data, because the objective situation, have changed, because the Canadian requirements have changed over the past generation. We're beginning to realize now that we're not a one-ocean country, not an Atlantic country, not even a two-ocean country, an Atlantic and a Pacific. We're a three-ocean country. We're beginning to realize that this Pacific seaboard is more important to Canadians than we realized in the past. We're beginning to realize that countries like Japan, like China, like Australia, and those on the Pacific coast of South America, are as important partners for Canadians as the nations across the Atlantic. And we're beginning to realize that in the Arctic Canadian interests are very great and that there are not only ice and barren lands up there but that there is oil and there are minerals and there is untold wealth.

And we're beginning to realize, too, in the cultural sphere that la francophonie is important and that part of our national identity is having a bilingual country, and that if it is important that we remain in the British Commonwealth of nations it is important also that we express our identity in the French-speaking countries, those that form la francophonie.