

This is important to the world stability and to international understanding. It also illuminates a major instrument of Canadian policy. As a large rich country, becoming more mature and secure about ourselves, we, naturally, could have some modest influence all by ourselves. But, the point is that we are not all by ourselves and that is a central truth about Canada. In our domestic arrangements, we are succeeding finally in establishing a sense of national community that thrives on the differences of our parts. That same respect for others - that sense of a world community - is at the root of the best of our foreign policy traditions. It is at the root also of that distinctive Canadian identity whose pursuit so preoccupies all our analysts.

To reveal a State secret, we live beside an energetic superpower. Most of its people speak a variant of one of our languages. Most of its citizens, in their enthusiasm about themselves, think very little about us. As it happens, on many basic questions, Americans and Canadians agree. But on some of the questions most important to us, we have been successful in asserting and maintaining our differences.

That is evident in our different approaches to international development, to progress in Central America, to the Government of Ethiopia, indeed to South Africa. But it is evident, most importantly, precisely in the attitude we take to international organizations and co-operation. It may be that powers our size have no choice but to work within international organizations, and to exercise our influence that way. Or that instinct for consensus may be a more fundamental part of the Canadian character. Whatever its causes, making the world work together has become the Canadian vocation. This is a challenging time to be following it.

There is all kinds of latitude for reappraisal and creative thinking in the way we set priorities, in how we approach key institutions, relationships, and problems. In coming days the Special Joint Committee on Canada's International Relations will complete its full year of work and table its report. I look forward with the greatest anticipation to the Committee's presentation of public concerns, to its analysis, to its recommendations. We are about to learn, through this unique consultative process, what internationalism really means to Canadians.