

This foreign policy review will be conducted through a parliamentary committee, which will be inviting submissions from private citizens and many organized groups within our society. They will hold hearings across the country and will invite the provinces to participate in the process. By mid-summer of next year we hope to have a report from that parliamentary committee for consideration by the government.

I do not want to anticipate the outcome of the review, but there is one point that I can make to you with complete confidence: Canada's relations with Europe, which have always been of central importance, will continue to be so. As a country whose soldiers have crossed the Atlantic in two succeeding generations, we know that our security is inseparable from that of Europe. As a major trading nation, we are bound to take account of the coalescent of the largest trading community anywhere in the world. And as a people whose roots are undeniably embedded in Europe we shall continue to attach great importance to our links with countries that have contributed so much to Canada's cultural heritage.

I want to assure you that the new government in Canada has no intention of withdrawing from our involvement with Europe specifically, or with the international community generally. We feel a strong responsibility to reassess our priorities in light of the dramatic changes that are occurring throughout the world, but we are determined to continue to play as large and as responsible a role as is appropriate to us on the stage of world affairs.

You are undoubtedly also interested in knowing what the recent change of government signifies for domestic Canadian policy; what differences of emphasis we shall be putting on the way in which the country operates at home. I want to speak specifically about federal-provincial relations.

Many of our domestic problems are, of course, similar to those faced by all countries in the developed world. Inflation, unemployment, rapid social change, and of increasing preoccupation, energy -- these are as familiar in France as in Canada. In addition, however, we have certain problems of governmental management that result from our constitution as a federal state that just do not apply in such a unitary country as France. And I must emphasize this difference in organization of government between our countries, because it is fundamental to a complete understanding of the Canadian political scene.

Even though the division of powers between the provinces and the federal government are laid down in our written constitution, the political reality is that our federation is characterized by perpetual evolution. At some periods in our history the powers of the provinces have been overshadowed by the imperatives of the responsibilities given to the federal government. At other times the rights and responsibilities of the provinces have, for a variety of reasons, been more vital to the current concerns of our nation.