

Introduction

Before starting I would like to say how honoured I am to be chosen to present a memorial lecture for O.D. Skelton. In reading the history of the Department of External Affairs by John Hilliker I was struck by Skelton's speech to the Canadian Club of Ottawa in 1922 on "Canada and Foreign Policy" in which he rebutted Lloyd George's claim that the British Foreign Office must run the empire's foreign policy. Skelton provided a rationale for Canadian control by arguing that foreign policy "was an extension of domestic policy and that as we had gained control of the one we must gain control of the other as to matters affecting ourselves - - -".¹ Fast forward 80 years and today the boundary between domestic and foreign policy is increasingly blurred and "control" of both is eroding by the deepening integration of the world economy and polity. I wonder how Skelton would have rephrased his dictum to Prime Minister Mackenzie King who was in the audience. In a way, the subject of today's lecture is concerned with this issue, albeit rephrased. The title is "Globalization and the G8: Could Kananaskis Set a New Direction?". Can a middle power play a significant role in foreign policy? Please note that the title ends with a question mark. No answer tonight or probably even after Kananaskis since there are, as I don't need to underline, no fast fixes for dealing with the complex and ever-changing challenges to global governance of which summitry is a part.

One more thing about O.D. Skelton: his wide-ranging and impressive legacy preeminently included his contribution to the building of a Canadian public service based on merit. He was, in the words of Clifford Clark, responsible for "the enhancement of the power and prestige of the Canadian Civil Service, of which he was so universally recognized as the leader, without peer".² I was one of the many who benefited from this Skelton legacy, so I know personally how important it was. This was especially so in foreign policy where the Avis principle rules i.e. if you're second you must try harder — and, I would add, you need the capabilities to do so.

Now, to turn to our subject I should emphasize that the topic is *not* Kananaskis *per se* but rather a more generic approach to Summitry as an institution and its role in the broad architecture of international cooperation which was established after World War II. I shall start with a brief history of the origins of the G7 and its evolution since that time. The changing nature