

represent a view of the world much more specifically from a Canadian vantage-point. We have decided that Canada should continue to be active in its alliances and the international groupings of which we are a part, including, and this is something new, the grouping of nations wholly or partly of French expression, la Francophonie. But we continue these associations not because we have had them for years but because the Government is satisfied that they help to foster our national aims and goals.

For a large part of its history Canada's attention has been focused southward upon the United States and eastward upon Europe, more particularly Britain and France. We have seen ourselves as a Northern Atlantic nation. Looking at the world from a Canadian vantage-point, we have come to realize that we are, and to begin to accept our responsibilities as, an American nation, an Arctic nation and a Pacific nation. The paper on Latin America indicates our growing interests in the hemisphere as a whole, including, of course, the Caribbean. The recent Arctic legislation presented in the House of Commons represents our assumption of responsibility for the ecology of the Canadian Arctic not only in our own interest but in the interest of all. The growing importance to Canada of the Pacific nations is dealt with in the paper on the Pacific. And what we are seeing in this geographical dimension is not so much change as enlargement. The widening of our horizons does not lessen the close ties we have with the United States, although it may help us avoid increasing our economic dependence upon the American economy. In Europe our traditional ties with the Western states are being strengthened and new ties forged with the nations to the East. Our traditional relations with India and Pakistan have not been lessened; in Africa, our historic connections with the new states of English expression are being enriched by new relations with new states of French expression. It is difficult to see how some observers, at home and abroad, can suggest that Canada is retreating into isolationism simply because we look at the world, as all countries do, from our own point of view.

One of the more controversial statements in the general paper is on role and influence:

"It is a risky business to postulate or predict any specific role for Canada in a rapidly evolving world situation. It is even riskier - certainly misleading - to base foreign policy on an assumption that Canada can be cast as the 'helpful fixer' in international affairs.

"There is no natural, immutable or permanent role for Canada in today's world, no constant weight of influence. Roles and influence may result from pursuing certain policy objectives - and these 'spin-offs' can be of solid value to international relations - but they should not be made the aims of policy. To be liked and to be regarded as good fellows are not ends in themselves; they are a reflection of but not a substitute for policy."