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alternatives. Canada believes, however, that the nuclear option, while an essential element in the world energy strategy, should only be exploited under the strictest possible international controls and by methods generally agreed upon as the safest that can be devised.

The Canadian role in the present international nuclear discussions is illustrative of how Canadian foreign policy is being shaped to reflect Canadian interests and to exert our influence in those fields where, quite clearly, we have a major role to play. Another example is the United Nations Law of the Sea Conference, where Canada is playing a pivotal part and where, very often, our national interests are on all fours with global objectives. Europeans tend very naturally to think of Canada primarily in terms of North Atlantic regional issues. But we are a Pacific power also, and increasingly we are emphasizing our economic and political association with "Pacific Rim" countries and our support for such organizations as the Association of South-east Asian Nations. We have moved also to strengthen Canadian ties with Latin America through aid to its poorer countries and trade with its emerging powers.

Canada's unshakable commitment to democratic principles needs no defence. We have long felt, however, that the cause of world peace and security is best served by keeping open and widening the channels of communication to those who espouse different political ideologies, specifically the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China and other Communist countries. Since, like all democracies, we must sometimes take issue with certain policies of these countries, far better that we do so fully, frankly and face to face. Canada, therefore, supports in appropriate ways all efforts to strengthen *détente* and is actively pursuing the liberalization of trade with the Soviet bloc and China.

It has been said that foreign policy is simply an extension abroad of a country's domestic objectives. While this is, in some respects, an oversimplification, Canada's foreign policy, in fact, is a true reflection of the interests and concerns of Canadians generally. Our growing involvement in international affairs is an indication of our increasing maturity, and our awareness that we can only develop and enjoy the Canadian potential in a world that is stable and secure. Thus there is a frankly-acknowledged element of self-preservation in much that we do.

But we have never been afraid of such frankness or of legitimate compromise, for without it there would be no Canada. Our 110-year history is made up of a series of concessions and accommodations that one group or region has been prepared to make to another. This flexibility, based on tolerance and understanding, has been the key to the survival and growth of our Canadian Confederation. Today, we are discovering as we have many times before, the need for a rededication to national unity. On this one-hundred-and-tenth birthday, Canadian pride in the unique arrangement we have forged between two founding peoples is tempered by a growing concern that, after more than a century of survival, our special brand of federalism is threatened by the re-emergence of long-smouldering divisive issues.

Fortunately, most Canadians, whatever their origins, are alert to the danger and share a common determination to take the steps necessary to preserve a united Canada. Our

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