

Let us take the example of Canada's reaction to the outbreak of famine in Africa that we see on our television screens. The government and the people of Canada have combined their efforts to make a contribution and to alleviate the suffering of the African people. This expression of human solidarity was generated by a deep sense of justice. I have no hesitation in saying that the government was morally obligated to respond to the expectations of its own citizens and of the famine victims.

In the United Nations, Canada's interest - political in this case - has always been to strengthen our bilateral relations by multilateral initiatives. We exert an influence on the operation of institutions and on the questions that they discuss. Our reputation in the peacekeeping operations gives proof of this. Even today our experience is being sought after in the Sinai and in Central America. We have a common interest in contributing toward solving the Third World conflicts and working toward regional stability.

We are respected on the international scene for our faithfulness to moral principles, such as the right of peoples to independence and the defence of human rights and of individual and religious freedoms. Our influence is a result of our tolerance, our diversity and our traditions.

This is all part of our heritage, but for sixteen months we have striven to make this tradition a reality.

Canada's power stems from its political stability and its economic strength. We have never been an imperial power, and we do not seek to impose domination on any part of the world. We are well thought of in the Third World. Our presence in many international organizations reinforces our ability to influence the course of events.

But our economic power is not what it was fifteen years ago. The new industrialized states are taking up considerable economic space. Japan has continued its ascent toward a post-industrial society, and the European economies have copped a growing part of the world economy.

Canada has lost some of its feathers in recent years. The growth rate of our productivity has declined.

Canada cannot afford to lose the economic war, especially the trade battle. 30% of our gross national product is tied to external trade, compared to 15% of Japan's and 10% of America's. Among the industrialized