

peacekeeping frustrations in Vietnam, following the collapse of the UN Emergency Force (UNEF) in 1967. Western Europe had not only fully recovered from the war but was taking steps toward integration that put strain on transatlantic ties and, combined with changes in the Communist world, called into question the need for continuing Canadian participation in NATO. The renaissance of French Canada, with its direct consequences for relations with French-speaking countries, raised further questions about the fundamentals of Canadian foreign policy.

Policy had not remained static since the war; it had been adjusting to the changing world and to Canada's changing needs. It had served the country well. But an empirical process of adjustment cannot be continued indefinitely. There comes a time for renewal and in 1968 the Government saw that for Canada's foreign policy the time had arrived.

Role and Influence

At times in the past, public disenchantment with Canada's foreign policy was produced in part by an over-emphasis on role and influence obscuring policy objectives and actual interests. 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. That implies, among other things, a reactive rather than active concern with world events, which no longer corresponds with international realities or the Government's approach to foreign policy.

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.

Foreign Policy in Essence

In undertaking this review the Government has been constantly reminded of its need and responsibility to choose carefully aims, objectives and priorities in sufficiently long and broad terms to ensure that essential Canadian interests and values are safeguarded in a world situation where rapid and even radical changes can be anticipated as normal rather than exceptional conditions. Canada, like other states, must act according to