

- Canada is among the most active supporters of multilateral institutions as reflected in our hosting this fall of the Heads-of-Government meetings of La Francophonie and the Commonwealth. The next meeting of the Economic Summit will be in Toronto in 1988.
- We played instrumental roles in producing the Brundtland Report, obtaining an international consensus of the Disarmament and Development Conference, and building a cooperative spirit at the UNCTAD VII Conference on trade, debt, and commodities.

This wide range of activity confirms Canada's commitment to constructive internationalism -- one that is appropriate for a trading nation where fully 30 per cent of our national output is in trade, requiring a stable international atmosphere supportive of economic growth. Moreover, as the 568 organizations and 630 individuals who submitted briefs to the parliamentary committee considering Canada's foreign policy made clear, Canadians want their government to play a strong and positive role abroad. A recent survey of Canadians' attitudes towards foreign policy revealed that 46 per cent of Canadians consider the issues of war and peace their chief personal concern, while 21 per cent consider poverty and hunger foremost. Canadians do care about a safer, more equitable world.

One of my dominant impressions gained during more than three years' representing Canada on disarmament questions at the United Nations is how much our country is respected. A strong legacy as non-colonial nation, multi-cultural, open, loyal to our allies, cooperative, and genuinely involved in strengthening the international system enables Canada's voice to be heard. We have become an influential nation -- carrying with this new status the responsibility of an even more prominent role in the difficult years ahead.

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