



Statements and Speeches

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FOREIGN POLICY BEGINS IN NATIONAL INTERESTS AND ENDS IN INTERNATIONAL ACTION

Statement by the Honourable Mark MacGuigan, Secretary of State for External Affairs, to the House of Commons, Ottawa, June 15, 1981

The Prime Minister, Mr. Trudeau, has dealt eloquently with the question of instability and poverty in the world; of the need for nations to find ways to improve the conditions of the nearly one billion people on this planet who live on the margin of human existence. At the same time, he has underlined Canada's growing interdependencies with the world.

All Canadians have a huge and growing stake in what happens outside our borders. There is hardly a community in Canada which is not in some way or in some manner affected by developments outside this country. The same could not be said only a few years ago. Our economy and that of the world are now firmly intertwined. Our destiny and that of the world have become inseparable as never before.

The quest for world stability and order takes on an added sense of urgency under the circumstances. It is no longer an abstract concept. We are not simply a fortunate and remote country surrounded by three oceans and occupying one end of an isolated Northern land mass. We are a country which is vitally dependent on the world. The ripples resulting from events elsewhere do not stop at our borders. They carry on past and have an impact on all parts of our country.

The world presents a mixture of constraints and opportunities for Canada, as it does for all countries. The realization of our national goals is enhanced or diminished by what happens outside our borders. Growing global interdependence alters the balance of these constraints and opportunities. How world problems are dealt with becomes of vital importance to a country like Canada whose links with and dependency on the rest of the world are great.

Foreign policy can be said to begin in national interests and to end in international action. It is the extension abroad of national policies, as the government stated in its *Foreign Policy for Canadians* in 1970. Even more, it is the expression in the world of our fundamental national values — values such as freedom, democracy, civil liberties, peace, justice and economic and social progress.

To be sure, we have to pursue our national objectives in an international perspective. National aims can no longer be realized in isolation but require international consensus and united action through the principal associations to which we belong — the United Nations and its agencies, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD), the Commonwealth and la Francophonie.
