

Many of the Catholic Women's League are involved, individually and through local groups, in significant, helpful, important activities overseas. What I hope the international relations review will achieve through the system of public hearings, through the opportunity for individuals to be heard, is a collective, not just an individual engagement of Canadians, in issues like development assistance, in issues like trade and international finance and in issues like international security and peace - your theme I understand for the 1984-85 year. The Catholic Church, the United Church and Anglican Churches and others and the many voluntary organizations have done work of immeasurable value to Canada in opening the way and establishing the tradition of individual service abroad. There was a time when that activity could be regarded as simply the expression of personal ethics, or perhaps humanitarianism. Now our activity in the Third World is very much a matter of nationalism, very much a matter of national survival.

I happen to have, as their Minister, quite a high regard for the people who work as public servants in the Department of External Affairs. I think they are very able people but I do not propose to leave the foreign policy of the country to them alone or to political parties alone, or to non-governmental organizations alone or to the Bishops alone. I think that if we are going to make the changes that Canadians eight months ago showed they wanted to have made in this country, that it has to be a collective effort by all Canadians. And if we are going to do that, we have to go out and take advantage of the traditions that have been established, of the start that has been made by individual Canadians. I want Canadians now to think of the tradition that individuals have established of Canadians acting effectively in the world and to recognize that in these times what might have once seemed a charity to others is now a necessity for ourselves.

As I said earlier, as the Secretary of State for External Affairs I can publish the paper and start the process, but its success will not be determined by what a Minister does or by what a government does. Its success will be determined by how true Canadians are to the individual tradition of service abroad, the individual tradition of looking beyond our borders and making connections with conditions in other parts of the world - a tradition which is deep at the heart of the Catholic Church as it is, in my view, deep at the heart of the country.

Thank you.