

UNITED NATIONS POLICY REVIEW

As part of the Government's review of foreign policy a study is being made of policy towards the United Nations. Mr. George Ignatieff, who was formerly Canada's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, returned to Ottawa in January to start the process of examining Canada's role in the United Nations and he has prepared a draft review for discussion both within and outside the government. While he has consulted with a number of persons both within and outside the public service, the views expressed do not necessarily carry the official endorsement of the Department of External Affairs.

A basic premise of the review is that the interdependence of nations in today's world makes essential a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations. The United Nations is the most ambitious effort ever made to reconcile the political, economic, social and cultural differences in the world. Though the goals of the Charter - peace and security, economic and social justice, and individual human rights - have not been realized, they remain a valid rule of conduct for the signatory states. It follows that it would not be realistic to postulate as a policy alternative that Canada withdraw from the organization or play in it merely a passive and disengaged role. It is therefore also a basic premise that Canada should continue its policy of working actively to achieve the goal of making the United Nations an effective instrument for international cooperation and improving its capacity to discharge its Charter responsibilities.

The review takes into account the changes in the last two decades affecting the United Nations, its composition, its structure and its functions. Two developments - de-colonization and the scientific and technological revolution of the last two decades - have had a major impact on the world and on the United Nations. Decolonization has radically changed the composition of the organization and the representatives of the developing world now have the majority to dominate the conduct of the affairs of the General Assembly and its subordinate bodies. The impact of science and technology on relations between nations has meant that the problem of maintaining international peace and security has acquired new dimensions since the invention of thermo-nuclear weapons, intercontinental missiles and spy satellites. Technological progress has also meant the development of increasingly sophisticated