

FOREWORD

It is fifteen years since the last review of Canada's international relations. Since then the landscape at home and abroad has changed dramatically. With the election of a new Government possessing a strong mandate for renewal and change, it is time to look again at our relations with the rest of the world.

This paper has been prepared as an aid to the public review which Parliament is about to begin on the future directions of Canada's international relations. The paper is not a traditional foreign policy review. It does not present a complete analysis of all foreign policy issues or relationships, important as they may be. Nor does it discuss in detail the historical, cultural, linguistic and other factors which influence our policies. Rather, it seeks to look at the world and how it affects our prosperity and security, and at our need to respond. It emphasizes that economic issues are assuming an increasingly prominent role in our international relations. It also recognizes that a transcendent objective for Canadians is the prevention of war and the promotion of peace. In brief, this paper is designed to illustrate the dramatic changes which have taken place in the world and to raise some of the principal questions which Canadians need to consider at this time. It does not try to answer these questions or select particular options. That is for later.

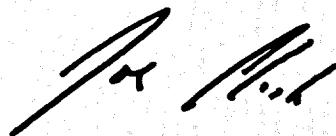
The Government hopes that the Parliamentary review will examine thoroughly those areas of Canada's international relations where important decisions for Canada are ahead. Not everything, however, is open to question. Canada is a democratic society and this Government is committed to the protection of our values; hence our membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and our cooperation with the United States in the defence of North America. We intend to play an active, constructive role in the management of international affairs, in the Economic Summit, the United Nations and its economic and social institutions, the Commonwealth, La Francophonie and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). We intend to do our part and more, in preserving the peace and bringing arms, especially nuclear arms, under control. We are determined, as well, to help alleviate the poverty and hunger of those less fortunate than we and to help eradicate human rights abuses that deny our fellow human beings the freedom and dignity to which all are entitled.

The world respects our capacity for dispassionate judgement and our vocation for constructive involvement. We assisted at San Francisco in the creation of the U.N. We were at Bretton Woods when the post-war monetary system was designed. We were at Havana and Geneva as well, where the international trading system was conceived. And we have worked diligently ever since to improve international order — Lester Pearson and peacekeeping, Howard Green and the Partial Test Ban Treaty, Paul Martin and membership in the U.N. for the newly independent states, Pierre Trudeau and cooperation between North and South and between East and West. The new government intends to build on this tradition.

But not everything is possible. We do not have the resources to do all we would like in international affairs. In fact, reduction of the budget deficit may require further retrenchment in some of our international activities. Priorities will have to be established; difficult choices will have to be made.

Quite possibly, before the review is complete, the Government may wish to act on some issues, such as the trade issues arising from discussion of the paper released earlier by my colleague, the Hon. James F. Kelleher, Minister for International Trade on "How to Secure and Enhance Canadian Access to Export Markets" and the paper released by Mr. Kelleher and the Minister of Finance, the Hon. Michael Wilson on "Export Financing". The world will not wait for us. Nonetheless, this review will be invaluable in shaping policy.

I encourage all Canadians with an interest in the future of their country and the contributions Canada can make to a safer, more prosperous and humane world to come to the Parliamentary hearings which will take place across the country and to make their views known.



The Right Honourable Joe Clark
Secretary of State for External Affairs