

keep up with rapid changes in the international community. In this environment, there is no way for Canada to creep under the friendly umbrella held up by the United States, there to be sheltered from the worst of the weather. Bombarded by domestic and international forces that we cannot control, we must find our own place to stand, and stand there as best we can. We do not stand alone; we stand next to the United States, our closest friend and ally, but in our own place, in our own way.

It is to come to terms with these new forces that Canada has been reviewing its foreign and defence policies. Some observers at home and abroad are suggesting that the process is taking too long. I don't think so. It isn't an easy process and it isn't a process that can be hurried. As always happens in these circumstances, the process of review itself is having effects on the development of our foreign policy. What we are seeing and what we shall see is not so much change of direction as enlargement of interest; not withdrawal, but diversification. Our relations with you will continue to be of first importance. After an exhaustive study, we have re-affirmed our strong support for the NATO alliance and remain as a full member. It is true that we are reducing our component in the NATO forces stationed in Europe. This represents our new assessment of the realities of the situation in Europe and in Canada and, in the end, our appreciation of our own priorities and national interests. We are not "bugging-out" of NATO or retreating into isolationism or continentalism. Our approach to the Peking Government is perhaps the most visible and dramatic evidence of enlargement. Less obvious and less exciting, but just as important, are our new initiatives in francophone Africa, our growing contacts with Japan and other countries in Asia, our new approach to the Latin American countries, our developing dialogue with the Eastern European powers and the steady increase in our aid to developing countries.

This is quite a catalogue for a middle power, and it is by no means exhaustive. Looking, on the one hand, at our global sphere of activity (like the United States, Canada is at once an Atlantic, Pacific, Arctic and American nation) and, on the other, at our limited resources, it is not surprising that we turn to the multilateral institutions as a means whereby we hope to foster our objectives. We look, for example, to NATO to help maintain the precarious balance upon which global security rests and as an instrument to further the détente that must come if our common security is to be more surely based.

Above all we have looked to the United Nations. In my speech in the general debate at the current Assembly, I expressed as frankly and as cogently as I could the profound uneasiness Canada feels about the present and future effectiveness of the organization. The speech seems to have touched a sensitive nerve, since it has been referred to and reinforced by subsequent speakers in the debate. The United Nations must strengthen and renew itself if it is to deal with the problems of the present and the future, if it is to keep the peace and improve the conditions of life on earth. It is the member nations that will determine whether or not this is to be done. Canada is now engaged in setting out some of the practical steps that can be taken to overcome the weaknesses and difficulties besetting the organization. I made plain to the General Assembly that Canada makes its criticisms as a loyal member of the United Nations and that our faith in the capacity of the organization to renew itself is unimpaired.