

A second guideline is that distinctions may therefore be made between various categories of threats to Canadian security, both in terms of the nature of the threat and of its urgency, which may well be different. Apart from global nuclear war, however, it is not easy to categorise direct threats to Canadian security which involve the use of force. Canada is a fortunate country compared to most, but we are nonetheless vulnerable to disruption and conflict elsewhere, whether it be in terms of imports of particular commodities such as oil, or of illegal refugees, or of grain markets. "Security" in this wider sense is not covered comprehensively in these pages, but it is nevertheless possible to conclude from the issues discussed that Canadian interests are world-wide and that an active diplomacy may have more to do with their defence than conventional military means. In any event, no government can or should pay equal attention to all the possible contingencies which could threaten its security. Tacitly or otherwise, governments establish some order of priorities based on their assessment of national interests.

Thirdly, the user of this guide may wish to know what in fact are such priorities from the government's point of view. Readers may recall that in 1970 the government of the day attempted to set out foreign policy priorities, although it would be difficult in the light of subsequent events to claim that they always governed the policy agenda. The present government has been less ambitious. But the Defence White Paper clearly attaches greatest importance to two contingencies--an attack on North America by ballistic or cruise missiles, and crisis leading to war in Europe. Moreover, certain priorities have been established for arms control and disarmament policy (see pp. 91-92). In general, these are traditional Canadian objectives and priorities, although there is a perceptible shift towards greater concentration on the North as a defence priority, and more emphasis on issues of verification of arms control and disarmament agreements. In regard to the resolution of regional conflict, the record points to increasing Canadian involvement in efforts to assist