

## IV CANADA'S POLITICAL AND SECURITY INTERESTS

### A. Regional Challenges and Canadian Capabilities

128. It has been observed earlier that Canada can be described as a "Pacific power" only in the economic sense, and then only if the national potential is more fully realized. In the more traditional senses in which the term is used, Canada has neither the aspiration nor the means of being a "Pacific power". In regional politics, however, one important Canadian asset is the experience as a relatively small power co-existing side-by-side with a superpower. As a result of this background, Canadians have an instinctive understanding of the aspirations of the smaller Pacific powers for national independence, and a familiarity with the lopsided power relationships which are characteristic of the region.

129. In very broad terms, the regional outlook was cogently summarized for the Committee by Professor Hedley Bull of the Australian National University, when he said:

I think it is obvious that there grew up in the 1950's a pattern of power relationships in the Pacific area which in the course of the 1960's has been disintegrating and in the course of the 1970's will give place to something quite new. I believe that pattern will be governed primarily by the relationship of three great powers—the United States, the Soviet Union and China—and that the principal uncertainty of the 1970's is whether they will be joined by a fourth great power, Japan, and how the pattern of their relationships will be affected, if they are.  
(7:15)

130. At this point in time, there are numerous possibilities for the relations among these four giants, in patterns of competition, cooperation or merely co-existence. Yet against this uncertain background the smaller powers of the Pacific must pursue their own national objectives.

131. At the same time, as the Policy Paper notes, "The shifting power balance is . . . only one aspect of the pattern of unresolved tensions in the Pacific region". Further "seeds of instability and conflict" are to be found in: the challenges of ideology and technological change to traditional societies and institutions; the race to meet the rising expectations of Asian peoples for economic and social development; and the racial frictions and territorial ambitions which are, "in Asia as elsewhere, an aspect of the inter-action of peoples and nations." (Policy Paper, p. 9)

132. The leaders of most of the smaller nations of the Pacific, preoccupied with these problems, seek an external environment sufficiently secure for them to devote their full energies to the urgent tasks of nation-building. They are anxious to avoid being drawn into regional rivalries among the great powers.

133. The Policy Paper stressed, as a Canadian contribution to general peace and stability in the Pacific, the effort to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, "in the hope that Canada would be able to make a contribution