

I would first like to express my pleasure at being able to come and speak to you in this prestigious institution. Our government is deeply committed to the defence of Canada's foreign trade. I am here to address you who are out doing battle in the trenches in Quebec and in the rest of the world.

I have come to talk to you specifically about the field of foreign policy. It is complex. It requires constant attention, accurate appraisal and careful judgment. These are some of the things you learn here at HEC. But it is also what makes Canada's foreign policy an active one. It must constantly adapt to the changing requirements of the outside world.

We are a part of the world community, and we wish to help build a better world. There are things that we must do, and there are things that we wish to do. It must be clearly understood that Canada's interests are protected and promoted and our future is shaped largely by our activities on the international scene.

Power and influence are the two poles of a country's activities. The exercise of one depends on the presence of the other. In fact, a country's influence reflects its power more than its preferences.

Canada is without question an influential country. To clearly explain how this influence should be exercised is essential. This is where the concept of interest enters in. Here I am talking about the national interests - political, economic, strategic, cultural and moral - that underlie our foreign policy and determine the conditions of our participation in the international community.

One of the first responsibilities of a government is to establish the proper balance between the various interests of the country. This is what the government began to do when it was elected, when it started an overall review of Canada's foreign policy.

How is Canada's influence expressed and what interests does it coincide with?