

For Canadians, this new challenge is a many-sided one: the frontier extends out in many directions, embracing the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Commonwealth of Nations and the United States. With each of these groupings we have relationships of a special character and to all and to each, I reiterate, we bring something of those special qualities which I have referred to as Canadianism. Into the amalgam of our foreign policy have gone something of our history, something of the ideals and values we hold in common with others, something of the irrevocable demands which geography imposes on us and above all, something of the talents which we have developed for stability, tolerance, endurance compounded with compromise and adaptation. We know that flexibility is not a spineless posture and that open mindedness does not necessarily mean an empty mind through which the winds of indifference or cynicism blow unimpeded. Rather, these qualities for Canadians bespeak a willingness to listen to "the other guy", and an attempt to take his point of view into account even if we do not accept it.

Compromise is not a naughty word: it does not involve a lack of moral standards. The reconciliation of opposing viewpoints for reaching a position on which all can agree, is of course not an easy task; it is long and laborious, it is often a tedious endeavour and more often than not a frustrating one. But in these days, not of alternatives, but of THE terrible alternative, it is an imperative course of action, and one from which we can never back away in dismay or a sense of futility. It is an honourable and constructive role that we seek to play in opening new avenues of approach to, and new perspectives on, this challenging frontier. Our way is the way of the explorer and the frontiersman (although I hesitate to press this metaphor further lest members of the Department of External Affairs become convinced that I am advocating a substitution of the coon skin hat of Davey Crockett for the more formal attire which has become their trademark). We must, like the explorers whose names figure so brilliantly in our history, anticipate new routes, new lands, new peaks, whether the latter have the dramatic appeal of a distant summit, or the lower attraction of the foothills. At the same time, we must chart our onward course with care, never losing sight of the fixed landmarks by which we steer and the hinterland from which we have come. On this frontier, we can never allow ourselves to be like the lamentable individual who knows not where he has been, neither does he understand where he is at, nor envisage where he is going.

The formulation of a democratic foreign policy is thus a complicated task, and one which demands above all for its effective execution, an informed public opinion which is alive to the issues involved and aware of the ends our policies on this frontier are designed to serve.