

Second, the government had to refurbish Canada's reputation as an ally and as an effective player on key international issues. We used our presence in East/West and arms control forums to press for a world with fewer weapons and greater trust. Vital bilateral partnerships were reinvigorated with the U.S.A., with France and with our other developed partners.

Multilaterally, we played a major role in getting La Francophonie up and running, and we were instrumental in placing the Commonwealth in the vanguard of a fight against apartheid. Canada also stayed with the UN and its specialized agencies during some dark hours, working for needed reform while others left in frustration. We took part in new peacekeeping operations, in Afghanistan and on the border between Iran and Iraq. We reinforced Canadian sovereignty in the Arctic and promoted peaceful circumpolar cooperation. And we were an early supporter of urgent international action to safeguard a threatened biosphere, through such concepts as sustainable development.

In approaching this agenda we made a point to involve the Canadian public in foreign policy. We wanted Canadians to tell us what they believed the real challenges facing our country to be and what we could do to meet those challenges. And, through the intermediary of a Special Parliamentary Committee which for a year travelled from coast to coast and received hundreds of submissions, they did.

What they told us was that they support a foreign policy that is activist, outward looking and humanitarian. Since then we have continued to draw in Canadians, to consult with them on trade and on human rights, to work with them on development assistance, to enlist their understanding and support for government policies. I intend to go right on doing so, because I'm convinced it's the best way to ensure our foreign policy remains consistent with Canadian values and interests.

If all this sounds a little manic, I can tell you that at times it was. Highly successful as they were, I am not sure we would quickly volunteer again to host three very major Summits in nine months!

But the world will not permit us to rest on our laurels, even if we felt inclined to do so. Fundamental changes are occurring around us and we have to deal with them, not just responsively but with anticipation.