

If the changed international climate now permits much more effective influence for Canada, it will also demand changes in the way we see and conduct ourselves in the world. When we have been left on the sidelines of the international action, too many Canadians, including some who should know better, have come to expect our foreign policy to be a kind of pious running commentary on the conduct of others. It was this tendency of Canadians to see themselves as the self-appointed conscience of the world that led Dean Acheson to dub us, in Wordsworth's phrase, "the stern daughter of the voice of God." Regrettably, when our own interests are involved, we have shown, that we have no corner on international morality or virtue, although in relative terms we remain solid citizens.

In a new era of Canadian relevance in the world, we will have to pursue our interests and uphold our values straightforwardly, recognizing that others will do the same and that they have their own consciences which they will heed about as frequently as we do our own.

Many Canadians will be diffident about a renewed peace-building mission, because self-skepticism is an even more popular Canadian game than *Trivial Pursuit*, but there are few foreigners who would question this country's unique credentials for international order-building in the current world situation. Surely in an era when the Berlin wall and Nicolae Ceausescu can fall, even Canadian skeptics should be susceptible to inspiration.

Dismantling the Cold War

Ottawa was one of the slowest of the Western capitals to accept the reality and significance of Mr. Gorbachev's revolution, but by mid-year it had done so and by year-end the Prime Minister and a large private sector delegation had made a successful and productive visit to the Soviet Union.

Canada has a direct role in the negotiations to reduce Conventional Forces in Europe – with temporarily increased importance as "the other North-America" NATO partner in this time of change. Our leading role in verification work has also borne fruit, and the "Open Skies" conference in Ottawa in February will be the first major focus of East-West consultation in the wake of the last dramatic developments of the old year.

Economic cooperation and bridging assistance are now a vital part of the West's effort to maintain the momentum of reform in Eastern