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10 'An art embodying the very character and spirit of the country'

The first significant showing of non-contemporary Canadian landscape painting takes place in Britain in the Spring. Donna McDonald vividly describes Canadian pride and continuing interest in the 'Group of Seven'.

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For a new life and bigger business opportunities, hundreds of British business people and investors – like others around the world – are attracted to Canada. The fruits of labour is sweet success.

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Editorial

Happy families, wrote Tolstoy, are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.

The political eruptions across Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, and the dismantling of the Berlin Wall, exposed to the world the misery of life behind the old Iron Curtain, the dangerous neuroses of an unhappy family turned in on itself.

With a new enlightenment, problems are now being identified: reforms are promised. It will not be easy, but Canada will help. It is committed to encouraging countries of the former Eastern Bloc towards democratic order through assistance, advice and education. At Mr Gorbachev's request, Canada also extended a billion dollars worth of credits to the Soviet Union to buy winter food.

Such an approach recognises Canadians' influence and standing, historically and today.

Canada's rightful place with the 34 nations of the Conference on Security and Co-operation at its summit in Paris equally testified to its continuing role in world affairs.

As the leaders declared the Cold War over, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney encouraged member nations to attend to the other world problems, avoiding the temptation to become an enlarged but inward looking entity.

This wider vision is explained by Secretary of State Joe Clark in a major article. When Canada speaks, the world listens. Appreciation of our distinguished place in the historic world events of recent months may also serve to remind Canadians of our standing, past and present, during the coming months of critical self-examination of our constitution – and our soul.

The search for the Canadian identity was boldly interpreted by the famous 'Group of Seven' landscape painters earlier this century (centre pages). At their first exhibition in Britain since the 1930s, their work – together with contemporary landscape art, to be staged at the Barbican, London – represents a quest for truth, not a trawl through self-doubt.

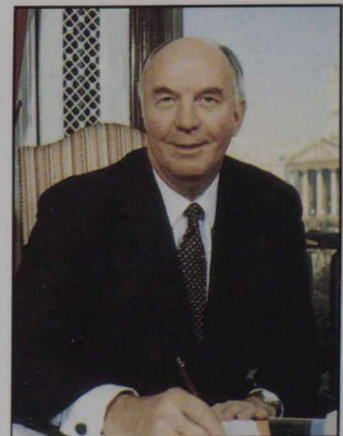
In the same way, the enthusiasm of the new business immigrants from Britain should fill everyone with confidence (For love and money,

business immigrants find success in Canada). They confirm what I have long believed: business is a practical demonstration of the respect which should exist between peoples and mutual recognition of each others' values. It is an interaction as well as a transaction; without free trade, nations sink into the nightmare of totalitarianism which Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union are at last throwing off.

Similarly, education also breaks down the barriers of ignorance and prejudice. Canada offers strong advantages to those wishing to continue their studies and researches at a higher level. But, as hosts, we must also appreciate how we are enriched by the presence of 'strangers' in our midst.

And, as we enter a New Year, what of other traditional values? I know many Britons' first image of Canada is a long, long train skirting through the Rockies or across the Prairies. The romantics will be delighted to learn how a heritage is being refurbished to provide an exhilarating travel experience in the future.

So, all aboard for 1991! Good Wishes for the New Year.



Donald S. Macdonald

Canadian High Commissioner