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Overview

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# Competitiveness and Security

## Directions for Canada's International Relations

### Background

*The Discussion Paper (Green Paper) tabled in the House of Commons on May 14, 1985, by the Right Honourable Joe Clark represented a first step in a broad parliamentary review of Canada's international relations. The Green Paper was not a proclamation of government policy; its purpose was to prompt a long overdue public discussion of issues that have a major impact on the lives of all Canadians. Accordingly, after tabling, the Government referred the Paper to a Special Joint Committee of the House of Commons and Senate, and empowered it to conduct hearings across the country.*

*As indicated by Mr. Clark in his foreword, the Green Paper is thematically focussed "to illustrate the dramatic changes which have taken place in the world and to raise some of the principal questions which Canadians need to consider at this time". It devotes special attention to Canada's international economic competitiveness and the need for careful setting of policy priorities.*

### Canada in the World

Canadians have been fortunate people. For most of our history we have lived at a safe distance from a turbulent world. We have enjoyed considerable prosperity and peace, while many others have often lived in hunger or fear. But times have changed. The difficulty of controlling our economy on a satisfactory basis has blurred the borders of domestic and foreign policies. Neither Canada's prosperity nor its security can any longer be taken for granted.

If the *status quo* is not a satisfactory

