

earlier government. We insisted on public debate of our obligations under NORAD, before the renewal date next year, and had to fight to get the opposition to agree to the reference. So we are opening up the foreign policy process. What we have to build toward, through this kind of public consultation, is nothing less than a collective national effort to see ourselves clearly. To achieve that, the Review process will have to thrash through some difficult policy options.

But whatever specific policy recommendations ultimately emerge from the Review, the general question of Canada's place and purpose in the world is not, in the meantime, hanging in abeyance. Leaving aside questions of particular policy and strategy emphasis, two things ought to be obvious. First, what we are doing in the world -- I'm talking about action, not about abstractions -- is working very hard to preserve the international economic system, prevent a calamitous war, and deal with human anguish in the developing world. And second, the way we are going about this reflects some remarkable Canadian attributes and areas of experience. I say these things ought to be obvious, but sometimes they're blurred by some old ghosts of inferiority and passivity that history has left with us.

There is one other aspect of Canadian foreign policy that I think needs further emphasis. The test of whether a foreign policy is distinctively Canadian is not whether it is sharply different from the United States of America. The test is whether it serves Canadian interests and the international structures on which we depend.

Obviously our interests will often parallel those of the US. We share a common faith in democratic values, a common knowledge that those values are rejected and opposed by an armed Soviet system, and a common determination to defend our values.

Sometimes our interests will differ from the Americans, as they differ now regarding the embargo of Nicaragua.

As the Canadian policy debate proceeds, I hope people who might have seen Canadian foreign policy as a Canada/US affair will take a wider view of the world. Of course the United States is of pre-eminent importance to us; it could not be otherwise, given our geography, our values, our relative populations and power. But the United States is important to many others also, indeed to everyone else, and for us to be blinded by our relations with that country - to let apoplexy affect our judgement each time the Pentagon says something stupid - is to deny our identity and interests.