

I have arrived by this somewhat circuitous route at the acknowledgement that Canada is probably a "middle power", however we define that term. We have become a nation with significant economic weight. We have a population of 21 million and a gross national product approaching \$70 billion, and our economy is growing at a steady rate. We offer a market of considerable proportions for the products of other countries. In a number of products we are one of the leading producers and exporters. We have resources that are attractive to capital from outside our own country. We have a prosperous economy that enables us to make a substantial contribution to international activities and development. In short, we are an economic power.

We also have an appreciable military capacity. It is not great in terms of the super-powers, but our forces are well-trained professionals, volunteers, not conscripts. They are equipped with modern weapons and capable of very effective employment in selective situations.

Canada also has a considerable capacity for political and diplomatic influence. We are a respected country in most parts of the world and in the United Nations and other international organizations. This is, perhaps, because we have no history of domination over other lands and no historic grievances to trouble our relations with other peoples.

The last few years have seen profound changes in Canada's orientation towards the rest of the world. Traditionally, Canada's external relations have been focused on the United States and Western Europe, for reasons that are obvious in terms of Canada's historical national interests. The changes that have come about reflect changes that are taking place in Canada as much as changes that are taking place in the international environment. In the last decade, there has been a tremendous surge of social dynamism in Canada's French-speaking community and particularly in the Province of Quebec. This was long overdue and has not come about without putting great strain on national unity. The effects of this new force in Canadian political life have not yet been absorbed. I don't think they ever will be or should be. For too long, Canada, with one-third of its population linguistically and culturally French, and another third of varying origin, has presented a predominately Anglo-Saxon face to the international community.

The second great influence for change in Canada affects your country as well. It is the attitude of the rising generation. My generation in Canada was brought up with a clear perception of the United States and of our roots in Western Europe; the rest of the world existed in a kind of mist, we knew it was there, we contributed our pennies to send missionaries to the heathen. The new generation, brought up to be at home in the new age of instantaneous communications, sees the whole world in sharp focus. They seem to share Henry Ford's view that "history is bunk". Historical perspective appears to have little meaning for them; they see things in terms of the present. Disregarding the historical perspective, they seem to have little faith in the future. Action now is what they call for. Governments all over the world are feeling the effects of these new attitudes - nowhere more than in Canada, with more than 65 per cent of its population under the age of 35.

It isn't an easy time for governments, and it isn't an easy time for foreign ministers. In the democratic countries, governments must take into account new attitudes at home and try to come to terms with them in shaping foreign as well as domestic policy. Democratic or not, governments must try to