

It is going on three years since this Government came to power. During that time I have had the great honour to represent our country as Secretary of State for External Affairs. I have talked to thousands of people - real people, not just officials and Ministers - in Africa and Asia, Europe and Latin America, the United States and the Soviet Union; and I have sought out the views of hundreds of individual Canadians - exporters, missionaries, investors, aid workers, MPs, diplomats, students, professors and artists who make Canada work in the world.

One lesson I have learned is that international policy, far from being foreign, lies at the heart of the every day interests of Canadians. In this world of instant communication and nuclear weapons, in this modern trading country, foreign policy is domestic policy. Isolation is not an option for Canada. We could not draw back from the world, even if we wanted to. And Canadians don't want to.

Nova Scotians know how world affairs affect our daily lives. Seventy years ago, Halifax harbour exploded. This summer, 174 people came ashore near Yarmouth, claiming to be refugees from troubles continents away. From the port of Halifax, in two world wars, Canadian soldiers left for European fields, some never to return. To and from this port, every day, commodities come in and commodities go out. Dramatizing the reality that this country depends more on foreign trade than Britain does, or France, or the United States, or Japan. The International Centre for Ocean Development is involved intimately in the solution of problems around the world. So is the Bedford Institute. So is the Coady Institute, whose representatives were with me last week in Mozambique. So is this University, and its academic junior partners like Dalhousie. So are the thousands of Nova Scotians and other Canadians who contribute to UNICEF, or to Save the Children, or our churches or our service clubs or our peace movements or our export seminars, or who sign the register against apartheid, or help fight famine.