

**Nature of
foreign policy
review**

luxury. It is essential.

On my first day at the Pearson Building last June, I was presented with a large briefing book containing some 115 briefs. They covered every conceivable subject: political, economic, security, environmental, institutional; they raised questions or identified issues affecting Canada's position in virtually every corner of the globe. Even then the briefing book contained only a selection of foreign-policy-related subjects; it by no means covered them all.

Seeing that book brought home to me in concrete terms what I was already well aware of in general terms — the complexity of the international scene, the unpredictability of events, and the extent to which Canadian points of view needed to be confirmed, changed or developed.

It was in this context that I concluded that our foreign policy review should begin with the preparation by my officials of a paper which would try to show Canadians the kind of world we live in today, underlining the changes which have occurred and identifying the implications for Canada.

This paper is almost completed. It describes forces at work in the world, political motivations, changing power relationships, and changing economic conditions. It raises a lot of issues which I think must concern us. Like my recent speeches, it poses some provocative questions, and is meant to serve as a stimulus to discussion, not prejudge it.

In the same spirit and within the framework of reviewing Canadian foreign policy, a companion paper is being prepared on aid; and it will see the light of day simultaneously with the first paper on Canada's place in a changing world.

It is the Government's intention to refer these two papers, and possibly other documents, to a Special Joint Committee of the House of Commons and Senate in the near future. It is also my intention to involve that Committee in Canada's preparations for the Madrid Review Meeting of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe to be held in the fall of 1980. It may be that the entire Committee will want to take a look at that subject, or it may be that in the preparation for that very important conference it will want to designate a subcommittee to work on the specific arrangements for the Madrid Conference in 1980.

The Government's purpose in this is twofold: first, to help revitalize the role of Parliament in the consideration of Canadian foreign policy; and second, to provoke discussion in the country at large of the foreign policy issues of the day, giving the largest number of people the maximum opportunity to participate.

I have stressed, and cannot stress enough, the importance I attach to parliamentary and public input in our foreign policy review. I combine this with an assurance, however, that the Government cannot, and will not, abdicate its responsibilities in the meantime. Government decisions in specific areas will obviously have to be made.
