

That this House take note of the present state and future prospects of Canada's international relations and endorse the broad thrust of the report of the Parliamentary Task Force on North-South Relations.

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) has dealt eloquently with the question of instability and poverty in the world; of the need for nations to find ways to improve the conditions of the nearly one billion people on this planet who live on the margin of human existence. At the same time, he has underlined Canada's growing interdependencies with the world.

All Canadians have a huge and growing stake in what happens outside our borders. There is hardly a community in Canada which is not in some way or in some manner affected by developments outside this country. The same could not be said only a few years ago. Our economy and that of the world are now firmly intertwined. Our destiny and that of the world have become inseparable as never before.

The quest for world stability and order takes on an added sense of urgency under the circumstances. It is no longer an abstract concept. We are not simply a fortunate and remote country surrounded by three oceans and occupying one end of an isolated northern land mass. We are a country which is vitally dependent on the world. The ripples resulting from events elsewhere do not stop at our borders. They carry on past and have an impact on all parts of our country.

The world presents a mixture of constraints and opportunities for Canada, as it does for all countries. The realization of our national goals is enhanced or diminished by what happens outside our borders. Growing global interdependence alters the balance of these constraints and opportunities. How world problems are dealt with becomes of vital importance to a country like Canada whose links with and dependency on the rest of the world are great.

Foreign policy can be said to begin in national interests and to end in international action. It is the extension abroad of national policies, as the government stated in its "Foreign Policy for Canadians" in 1970. Even more, it is the expression in the world of our fundamental national values—values such as freedom, democracy, civil liberties, peace, justice and economic and social progress.

To be sure, we have to pursue our national objectives in an international perspective. National aims can no longer be realized in isolation but require international consensus and united action through the principal associations to which we belong—the United Nations and its agencies, NATO, NORAD, the Commonwealth and *la francophonie*.

This is not the occasion to address conflicts between the national interest and the international good, except to note that the ultimate safeguard is the intrinsic appeal of the common good of all mankind. But Canada has less reason than most countries to anticipate conflicts between its national aims and those of the international community. In fact, from the time of our full emergence as an independent state with the Second World War and well before our present economic interdependence with the rest of the world, internationalism

North-South Relations

has been a trademark of our foreign policy. I believe that almost all Canadians accept it as one of our foremost national values.

The foreign policy review of 1970 divided Canadian values, as applied to foreign policy, into six categories which could thus be treated as the main themes. The events of the 1970s required the review and adjustment of many of the policy directions within that over-all framework. But as a framework for our aspirations, I believe these themes remain valid.

● (1700)

In my view, these themes—fostering economic growth, safeguarding sovereignty and independence, working for peace and security, promoting social justice, enhancing the quality of life and ensuring a harmonious national environment—continue to reflect the aspirations of Canadians and indicate a continuity in Canada's foreign policy goals. The strategies required to realize these goals today are different from the strategies of the seventies. The relative priority of the goals may also differ, but the goals themselves remain.

What sort of world were we facing at the outset of the seventies when that review took place? It was a different world, a world which was, frankly, more hopeful. There was more confidence then about our economies. We believed that money and technology transfers could overcome a number of global problems and advance the development of developing countries. Social programs could easily be expanded both at home and abroad; the disfavoured people in our own societies and the disfavoured countries of the world could be helped simultaneously. The term "oil shock" would have brought a blank stare. We were entering a period of economic expansion on a global scale. The fruits of this expansion would allow progress to be made on a number of fronts. Meaningful disarmament initiatives appeared possible. The Soviet Union appeared to be moving toward greater co-operation with the West.

I do not have to go through a litany of things which altered our views during the seventies. It is not necessary to describe the incredible global impact of two oil shocks and two recessions as well as other developments which diminished the early hopes of the seventies.

However, much was accomplished internationally in the seventies on which we can build in the eighties. The seventies saw a vast increase in international co-operation and the establishment of new frameworks to facilitate international transactions. Increases in trade and human contacts developed on a wider scale than ever before. There were attempts to develop crisis management mechanisms which could lessen threats to the international system in a wide variety of areas.

And the seventies saw a greater degree of stability returned to relations between the European states, particularly between the two Germanys. China joined the community of nations. The states of ASEAN formed a new nucleus for mutual co-operation.

A significant foreign policy challenge for the global community and for Canada will be to use those positive elements of