

national consensus on the important international issues facing Canadians. By doing this we can set our priorities and commit ourselves to policies which are within our capabilities.

B'nai Brith Canada shares the same hopes and purposes as the Canadian government. Working in co-operation with the Canadian government we aspire to end human rights abuses, alleviate misery, and promote prosperity. In our brief we have set out policy recommendations which can bring us closer to achieving these goals. Because B'nai Brith is deeply committed to the promotion and protection of human rights, we have devoted special attention to this area. Throughout our discussion we have emphasized policies which, given our resources, allow Canada to make an important difference in the world.

A sound foreign policy must begin with a realistic assessment of the international environment. What a nation ought to do is in part determined by the situation in which it finds itself. The first step then in reassessing Canada's foreign policy is to describe the world as it is, and not as we would like it to be. We must carefully distinguish between reality and our aspirations. Hiding from ourselves truths which we find too painful to admit, or minimizing the obstacles which stand between us and our national goals is the route to ineffective and failed policies.