

for Canada to reassert its internationalist and humanitarian role in the world amidst mounting pressures to accelerate militarisation and policy conformism. Canada needs to better define and promote our own interests in foreign policy. These interests include:

- strengthening international/multilateral efforts and institutions on environment,
- promoting human rights,
- norm building and institution building (including the reform of the UN, supporting regional organisations/mechanisms),
- sustained aid to the poor with a Canadian value added (such as good, democratic governance, education, federalism).

The Third Pillar in foreign policy – promoting our culture and values - is key to all of this. Attention to the promotion of our culture and values can help provide the strategic design to our international policies, tactical advances, leadership opportunities and can profoundly reinforce our security and prosperity interests. Many participants stressed the need to recognise that there are risks and costs that go along with pursuing a “Manifest Destiny.”

In a similar vein, several other participants pointed out that Canada’s role in the “war against terrorism” is reactive and ill-defined. Since September 11, the Canadian government has been considering and reacting to the decisions of the U.S. and other leading Coalition members without formulating its own strategies. How much of a priority is September 11 to Canadians? Has it changed us in any significant way? What are we willing to do on our own terms? The need for Canadian initiatives was emphasised by participants for different reasons. Some argued that Canada must urgently demonstrate its willingness to share the burden of creating a world safe from terrorism by developing more aggressive, and perhaps costly, initiatives (i.e., improving our intelligence capacity). Others said that Canada should not be too hasty in entangling itself in short term, terrorism-focussed, U.S.-led initiatives. Instead, a long term, strategic approach such as outlined above should be taken.

Opinion varied about the degree to which Canadian foreign policy can be pursued independently. How much room do we have to manoeuvre with respect to our Coalition partners and especially the U.S.? While some suggested Canada can and should pursue its long-standing internationalist approach regardless of external constraints, others were sceptical about the ability of policy makers to chart our own course. Nonetheless, a point was made not to underestimate Canada’s ability to accomplish objectives as a member of multilateral organisations, including the G-8.

Canadians need to understand better their inextricable connection to the world and the responsibilities that go along with that. Leadership is required to make Canadians more globally aware and engaged, not only in economic terms (i.e., trade, technology) but also politically and philosophically. In the aftermath of September 11, Canadians should be seized by questions about the nature of their country, the value of their sovereignty, and the complexity of their relationship with the U.S. How do we deal with terrorism without sacrificing our “character”? Given Canada’s military engagement (readiness) in the “war against terrorism,” the Prime Minister, Minister Manley, and other Cabinet members should promote public interest in foreign