

We have a security interest in Europe, and here our objective is to do our share to maintain peace or contain conflicts which could lead to a global war. This objective has implications for the role we play in East-West relations and for our relations with the countries of Eastern Europe. It also has implications for our defence relations with Western Europe and our future role in NATO. What these implications are is, of course, a matter for discussion at this seminar.

We also have economic objectives which might be described as seeking to obtain the most favourable impact of activities in Europe on the Canadian economy. One-fifth of Canada's export trade is carried on with European countries, including Britain. Europe is, therefore, after the United States, our most important export market.

Finally, there is an interest in Europe which relates to the international role which Canada plays in the maintenance of a free and stable society based on the rule of law. In the pursuit of this objective, Canada participates in international organizations, aid programmes and peacekeeping operations. We also engage in cultural and information programmes for the purpose of encouraging human relations between countries. These give an external dimension to our culture and provide a basis of mutual understanding which tends to support our foreign policy initiatives.

I expect that participants in this seminar, as well as other interested individuals throughout the country, might ask when there will be discussions about aspects of our foreign policy other than relations with Europe and whether, on the governmental side, there is an interest in continuing such exchanges beyond the present period of major review of policy. We have, indeed, been considering such possibilities in other areas of the review, and we intend, with the advice of interested non-governmental organizations, to involve specialists in other fields in discussions of other sectors of policy.

In the near future we hope to convene a meeting similar to this one to discuss Canadian relations with Latin America. Mr. George Ignatieff, who has been Canada's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, is returning to Ottawa shortly to start the process of examining Canada's role in the United Nations. After the preparatory work has advanced sufficiently far under his direction, we shall seek to consult knowledgeable persons outside the Government on that aspect of our foreign policy.

The development of closer relations on a permanent basis between those who teach and do research about international affairs and those who advise and carry out the decisions of government in this same field is something to which I attribute considerable importance. Foreign policy must, in a very real sense, be constantly under review. We cannot regulate the world by our own decisions. One review of policy cannot provide all the solutions in advance to problems of the Canadian response to unpredictable situations.

Several of you from universities will be aware of the informal consultations which officers of the Department of External Affairs have carried out with individual faculty members in the past year about the means of developing closer relations. These are parallel, of course, to initiatives which I know other agencies of the Government represented here today have taken to develop contacts with the academic community.