

It is remarkable and grimly paradoxical to reflect that in the past century the burgeoning of science and the advancement of education - both of which attempt to discover and organize knowledge of man's physical environment and to discipline the human intellect and spirit - should have had as a concomitant a steadily increasing degree of disruption, disorganization, destruction and distrust in the conduct of international relations. The by-products of science and education have injected strong new catalysts into the formation of foreign policy. The knowledge and power - one is reminded of Bacon's dictum that "Knowledge is power" - that science has made available to governments as an instrument of policy have transformed the climate in which the relations between nation states are conducted. Similarly, large and new segments of enlightened public opinion capable of responsible and independent judgment, as I have observed, have made it mandatory for governments, where no such need was felt in earlier times, to tailor policies more closely to a democratic social and political pattern. The anxious uncertainties and indeed the chaos in the contemporary world order represent in my view the failure of national governments to come to grips in an adequate fashion with the problems created by these fundamental changes. The traditional techniques of diplomacy are proving inadequate to meet the challenges facing us, and as the climate of international relations has been fundamentally altered, so too have the techniques of diplomacy undergone change. It is on some of these changes, as they affect the current shaping and execution of Canadian foreign policy that I now desire to comment.

At the risk of dwelling on the familiar and the commonplace, may I remind you of certain purposes and practices in the conduct of a nation's international affairs - purposes and practices which until our own time have not appreciably changed in their essential nature over the course of the last two centuries. In general, and in brief, the purposes of diplomacy have been to ensure the nation's security, to enlarge its commerce and hence its wealth, to enhance its prestige in a wide variety of cultural affairs, to protect the interests of its own nationals in foreign countries and, in short, in the words of the fine old drinking song "to keep foes out and let friends in". To achieve these ends, elaborate channels of diplomatic communication and rigid rules of protocol were devised. When these failed, a war may have resulted. Such conflicts were, by our standards, limited and perhaps inconsequential in nature and in area, but with the passing of time, they have become progressively more extensive and dangerous, and it is as a result of this succession of breakdowns that the peacemakers have been forced to devise more adequate procedures. Imperfect though some of these techniques may be, they can be counted as steps in the right direction and although any one of them in isolation is doubtless inadequate for the enormous tasks confronting us, I do believe that progress has been made.