

International Perspectives

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Editor's Note:

*Sometimes a subject becomes so big it needs the whole magazine to spread around in. Sometimes one author comes along who can do the whole thing. That is what happened with this issue of **International Perspectives**.*

If there are two dominating themes in Canadian foreign policy in the eighties they are relations with the United States and foreign trade. When combined, they tower over everything else — and account for the most interesting squirmings. A couple of years ago, we had the Liberals turning diplomats into salesmen with the move of the foreign trade service into the Department of External Affairs. Now with the new government of Progressive Conservatives we have the de-fanging of FIRA and of the National Energy Policy, in order to look more winsome to US government and business.

Anthony Westell of Carleton University in Ottawa has taken over this whole issue to examine that surpassing question of what we do about our relations with the United States. He applauds those measures that are directed to increasing the closeness of the embrace — in all its aspects — between Canada and its southern neighbor. Much of his purpose is to expose the futility of earlier policies (e.g., the "Third Option") of attempting to keep our distance from the US.

International Perspectives is proud to make this contribution to what can only be termed now a "Great Debate," and we expect to return again and again to this subject — especially since there are many more views than the one expressed in this issue.

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The Canadian journal on world affairs

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