

factors. To name the more obvious: the character of a country composed of two major language groups and many cultures; our membership in the Commonwealth and la Francophonie; the federal structure of our state; the size and nature of our trade as well as our continuing need to seek out new markets; our proximity to the United States and our deep links, as a country of immigrants, with Europe; our location on three oceans; our commitment to freedom and our hostility to aggression; and finally, our pragmatic idealism, which seeks a better world order for justice and security. These factors are recognized in the world community. They make the basic pattern of our relations remarkably stable.

Of course new issues arise and old problems fester so that we must reappraise this aspect of how we pursue our goals. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan has required a significant change in our relations with the U.S.S.R., as well as renewed attention to the views and co-operation of our allies. But here, as so often, the broad character of the change was natural and quite predictable. I think there is a danger of too great a dispersal of our effort if we try to review all aspects of our foreign policy just as there is a danger of raising false questions or doubts in the minds of other countries. For these reasons, I urge the committee to select specific, important issues for review.

I am particularly anxious to see progress on North-South questions and I was very pleased with the establishment of a Parliamentary task force on North-South issues. These problems require imagination and they will call for difficult decisions on the part of the industrialized countries. There is a crying need for more public attention to these issues, particularly because public understanding will be absolutely essential if we are to be able to respond as we should. I believe Parliament has a key role in promoting such understanding. At the same time, there are individuals and groups throughout our country who, through their experience or study, have formed valuable insights into the problems of North-South relations. We would be well served by an inquiry which drew upon this resource.

I shall turn now to review some key current issues in greater detail.

#### Fisheries

There are always a number of significant issues in our bilateral relations with other countries, but today I wish to mention only one which is of considerable concern to me and to the Government. Over a year ago, in March 1979, Canada and the U.S. signed two agreements providing for a co-operative régime for the management of fisheries on the East Coast and for adjudication of the disputed maritime boundary in the Gulf of Maine. Since then we have made repeated representations to the U.S. Government concerning the importance of the treaties and the urgency of ratification. Notwithstanding the U.S. Administration's reaffirmation of its commitment to the treaties, there were inexplicable delays in presenting the treaties to the Senate and there has been little progress since.

There was a preliminary hearing arranged by the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee a few weeks ago. The results were most disappointing from our point of view. A series of amendments were suggested by Senator Kennedy and supported by many other senators from the New England area. These amendments are of a drastic, far