

Mr. Paul Tremblay, our Ambassador to Belgium. External Affairs supplies the secretariat and the task force will report through me to the Prime Minister and the Government. The officials here today are members of the task force and senior officers of External Affairs directly concerned with our relations with Europe.

The task force began its work last summer and since then has compiled, probably for the first time, a comprehensive inventory of our past and present relations with the countries of Eastern and Western Europe (including Britain) and with European organizations. In the process of collating this material, certain major issues have emerged, and it is with a view to having these issues discussed that this seminar has been organized. The task force and the Government will then have the benefit of your views when they proceed to draw conclusions from the review of European policy....

CANADA AND EUROPE

In this spirit, it may be helpful if I say a word about our objectives and interests in Europe, which are closely related to the topics figuring on your agenda. To begin with, there are two basic Canadian problems which are interrelated and which have important external aspects: the problem of national unity and the problem of national identity. The first involves the reflection in our foreign policy of the bilingual nature of Canada and has particular reference to our relations with France. The second involves the difficulty a country in Canada's position encounters in creating and projecting a distinctive way of life. This difficulty has been aggravated by the considerable increase in our relations with the United States since the last World War and by the relative increase in the power and influence in world affairs of that country during this period. It is a question whether Canada should seek to develop its interests in other parts of the world, and particularly in Europe, as a counterweight to the increasing influence of the United States.

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....

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 will 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.

ACADEMIC EXCHANGES

From those consultations engaged in by my own Department, and from examination within the Department of the reasons which, from our own standpoint, make closer relations desirable, we have drawn some conclusions. We should like to continue the type of exchange which this present seminar represents. There is an increasingly varied range of discussion about international affairs sponsored by universities, learned societies and organizations such as the Canadian Institute of International Affairs. The Department of External Affairs derives benefit now from having officers attend a number of such meetings at the invitation of the sponsors. If sponsors of such meetings wish, from time to time, to arrange discussions, more or less under the conditions characterizing this present seminar, involving officials and those with similar interests from the universities and elsewhere, we shall be glad to consider co-operative arrangements within the limits of our own resources.

I have examined other means of developing exchanges in what I hope could be a mutually-profitable manner. I should like to have some officers from the Department of External Affairs freed from normal operational responsibilities at home or abroad to spend a year examining, in a more reflective way, the