

have been commissioned and carried out and now, as the result of a Cabinet decision, I'm able to announce today a new policy of bilateralism on the part of Canada.

Few objectives in the foreign policy field can be achieved without lengthy and persistent efforts. Canada must be prepared to concentrate its resources to achieve the necessary political relationships with key countries, deploying in a selective manner all political instruments of the state including visits at the highest level. Such instruments can include trade policy, access to Canadian resources, contractual links between governments, bilateral defence understandings, cultural and information programmes, and, in some circumstances, even development assistance.

The government must be prepared at times to let longer-term general considerations affecting the relationship to take precedence over shorter-term interests of a narrower character. The relationships must be subject to central policy management, bringing to bear on them the key considerations of credibility, coherence and planning. The facts that we have limited human and financial resources and that we are proceeding against a background of limitations to government spending, argue that our global approach to other countries must also be selected in line with our basic goals. We have to concentrate our energies and our resources to attain these goals. Priorities among relationships are therefore necessary, and the definition of these priorities must be systematized.

As a basic instrument of its global, differentiated foreign policy, the government has therefore decided to give concentrated attention to a select number of countries of concentration. The purpose is generally to strengthen long-term relationships with these countries because of their relevance to our long-term domestic development objectives. But the importance of the countries in question would also devolve from their relevance to our overall objectives and interests. Such a list would include both long-established countries of concentration and relative newcomers.

The most obvious bilateral relationship of benefit to Canada is that with the United States. In many basic aspects, that relationship is central to our foreign policy considerations and vital to our development. But it is a relationship which we in Canada -- both government and business -- must manage coherently and productively, with a clear sense of our economic and other priorities. It's