

PART I

AN OVERVIEW OF THE CANADIAN FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES PROJECT

This project is intended to explore the feasibility of designing a systematic procedure by which to integrate objectives into foreign policy planning in order to establish greater congruence between Canadian foreign policy objectives and the policy itself. This effort is based on the assumption that the design of a satisfactory procedure will facilitate the achievement of three ends. A comprehensive scheme of foreign policy objectives coupled with a means to link these to policy will (1) help in rationalizing foreign policy choices, (2) serve to guide the allocation of resources to foreign policy programmes, and (3) permit an evaluation of the effectiveness of programmes in meeting the policy objectives of government.

The presence of these aims in the discussions which provided the original mandate of this project played a major role in our selection of a general orientation toward the construction and implementation of an appropriate procedure. We saw as our first task the identification of a comprehensive set of foreign policy objectives. In drawing up such a list, two concerns were paramount. First, we wished to ensure that our set comprised those objectives which policy-makers themselves associated with Canadian foreign policy, rather than those which we as observers were able to identify in some "objective" fashion. This was achieved by deriving our set of objectives from a survey of internal government documents and official public statements on foreign policy. The specific procedures by which this survey was conducted are treated in detail in Part II. Second, we wished to construct a general classification scheme with which to organize the objectives so that they could also be viewed as instances of more general