

And beyond all this, of course, is the question of our military alliances and commitments. There are just as many questions needing answers here as in foreign and aid policy.

As I said at the outset, Mr. President, I don't pretend to have the answers to all of these questions. It may be that the policies we are following are still appropriate for the 1980s. But given the substantial changes in the international scene, I feel it is my responsibility to make sure that we don't take the answers for granted.

That's why we have initiated the review of foreign policy. I think this review is absolutely essential if we are to have any confidence at all that we really know, and are able to serve Canada's genuine interests in an increasingly interdependent world. There are two characteristics I want this review to have. First, I want it to have input from Canadians outside the government. By involving a revitalized Parliamentary Committee on External Affairs and National Defence we shall provide a vehicle for participation by private groups and individual citizens. In this connection I want to invite anyone interested to make sure your views get inserted in the process.

The second characteristic I want it to have is that it be quick. I have no interest in a long-drawn-out process that will take years to complete. We have to make decisions every day -- therefore, the sooner we come to agreement on these fundamental issues which I've raised today, the better.

Foreign policy is no esoteric academic exercise reserved for ivory towers or diplomatic tête-à-têtes. It has enormous implications for each and every Canadian -- for our security, for our economic well-being, for our contribution to the rest of the world. Given the international pressures which exist, we must realize that if we don't exert every possible effort to devise the kind of foreign policy most appropriate to Canada in the '80s, others may. And neither you nor I want to leave that job to others.

Thank you.