

A. Unity is an important value to the vast majority of Canada's population. It only makes sense that the importance of that value would be reflected in our foreign policy.

*Q. To the extent that Canada will invariably support the status quo when foreign states face separatist pressures?*

A. Not necessarily. We were the first country in the world to extend official recognition to the Baltic States when they seceded from the Soviet Union. They had been forced into a union that was deemed undesirable. When it became apparent that they could separate without inviting military destruction, we responded with our support. The situation in Canada is not comparable to that of most of the world's breakdown points. There is nothing illegal about our unity — no province entered Confederation at gunpoint. We aren't one of the world's hate centres — we grumble at each other from time to time, we shake our heads in exasperation at one another more than we should, but we're a long way from festering hatred.

*Q. Some see Canada as an adjunct to the United States. The U.S. is clearly the world's major actor in the wake of the decline of the Soviet Union. Does that leave Canada in a stronger international position?*

A. I have never been concerned about our close relationship with the Americans. They are of vital importance to us economically and we share a multitude of values, although the two societies are certainly different. We in Canada make our own decisions — anybody who doesn't believe that hasn't been paying attention. We have had differences on Nicaragua, on Cuba, on Vietnam, on the Law of the Sea, on South Africa from time to time, and on several other issues. Of course, we often agree with our friends and allies as well. Why wouldn't we?

*Q. The fact remains that we are a close ally. Does that help in this restructured world?*

A. I hope so. From what I have seen so far, I'm quite optimistic.

*Q. It would seem that Canada is becoming a bit more strategic — particularly with regard to restricting foreign aid to governments whose behaviour is unacceptable to us.*

A. We are going to have to be careful in this area. Different countries have different traditions, different histories and different sets of beliefs, and it would be a mistake to be too imperious about believing that we have the only set of values that matters. But there are billions of people in this world who have been forced to live

under conditions of economic insanity and political tyranny, and I think we have an obligation to apply some careful pressure when we can.

*Q. Isn't there a danger of hypocrisy — of applying this type of pressure in countries where Canadians don't have much to lose, and not applying it where we do?*

A. Sure there's a danger. Because you can only do what you can, where you can. You weigh costs against benefits. You judge where you can have influence, and where you would be cutting off your nose to spite your face. I think it is a sin for a nation to behave immorally. But naivety is also a sin, especially in international affairs. The world takes quick advantage of simpletons. So we will do as much as we can, when we can.

*Q. The world is no longer built around a showdown between two great powers. Does that make it a safer place?*

A. Again, I hope so. But it would be facile to say our problems are over. There are a lot of old hatreds around, and the older they are, the fiercer they seem to be. And there are new problems that seem to grow as fast as our global population expands. When you look at the environmental threats, the migratory pressure

and the proliferation of weaponry, you realize that a number of countries are going to have to show a degree of leadership — within a multilateral framework — that we've managed only in the most desperate of wartime situations before.

*Q. What will be the "right track" for Canada over the next few years?*

A. We're going to emphasize the importance of co-operative security. I am delighted the Cold War is over, but we are going to have to find a new international framework for stability, one that goes beyond the military dimension. Being prepared for war is important, but there should be a stronger common front against terrorism, drug trafficking, irregular migration and weapon buildups. All these things breed war. Internally, we want to concentrate on assuring Canadians of "sustainable prosperity" by improving the skills and productivity of our labour force and expanding our knowledge-based industries. Canada isn't going to change its international personality. But there will be shifts in emphasis, and I think Canadians and people around the world will be well served by them. 🍁

