

in helping to extend international order -- in Indochina and in Cyprus; in development and on arms control; in response to the crisis of refugees or famine; and in preparing the way for new regimes of international law. Whatever that says of our character, it is testimony to our prudence because we know that the interests and security of Canada depend on making constant progress against the poverty and prejudice, the fear and zeal that are the enemies of international order.

No one is immune to the consequences of disorder. The bomb at Narita Airport was in baggage shipped from Canada. The breakdown of world trading arrangements cost Canadian jobs. Local conflicts that escalate, or become infected by larger rivalries, threaten the security of all of us equally.

There is nothing new about these observations except, perhaps, that they have become so familiar that we take less account of them than we should. Forty years ago, freshly conscious of the devastation that can grow when nations go their separate ways to war, world leaders established the United Nations system. Much of our successful history since that time has been a history of alliances -- the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the European Community, and a multitude of more local arrangements -- whether bringing together the nations of Southeast Asia, or keeping peace in Cyprus or the Sinai.

Shocked by war, we found ways to work together. Now, sheltered by relative peace, we are drifting away from the international system that helped build that peace. The United States, Great Britain and Singapore, after careful consideration of their national interests, have served notice on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). India and Brazil and others resist renewal of multilateral trading negotiations. Greece is reconsidering its role in NATO. Instead of sending signals of leadership, the European Community is characterized by its bureaucracy and disputes, the General Assembly by its cacophony, the Security Council by wilful impotence. In Central America, the Contadora process seems stalled. In Namibia, the Contact Group, including Canada, has taken no effective initiatives. While bombs kill baggage-handlers, and the hostage-taking at Beirut is treated as live "soap opera", all civilized nations lament terrorism, but are slow in finding practical ways to fight it.