

Even under present political conditions, we do whatever is possible to make limited advances towards those goals. Through diplomatic channels we try to effect improvements in contacts and communications and in the solution of the personal problems of individuals and families.

I am happy to be able to tell you that we have, over the past 18 months, been able to make distinct progress toward resolving the long-standing and tragic problem of the reunification of families separated by the Second World War and its aftermath. Our consultations with the Soviet Government have met with a positive response, with the result that the number of people coming from the Soviet Union to rejoin their families in Canada after years of separation has more than doubled.

Many families remain divided still, but we are maintaining our efforts, encouraged by the emerging Soviet readiness to work with us in eliminating this legacy of past miseries. We can be hopeful that before long those still waiting will be happily reunited at last. Such an outcome will not only resolve a tragic human problem, but will do much to consolidate the basis for sounder relations between Canada and the Soviet Union.

In considering questions of particular interest to groups in Canada, we are very much aware also of their profound attachment to the culture of their homeland and could only lament, as an irreparable loss, the destruction by fire of the library of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences at Kiev last year. I am sure, however, that interested groups will lose no opportunity of maintaining contact with the abiding elements in that culture and with their kinsmen.

In ending my remarks on some of the main aspects of Canadian external policy, I return to the question which must be in the minds of all of us in thinking back over the past 25 years. Have we applied the lessons of our experience in the formulation of policy and are we in a better position than we were in the years immediately preceding and following the Second World War? The answer is an unequivocal yes.

I do not want to underestimate the dangers and disappointments of the contemporary world or the magnitude of unsolved problems. I do say, however, that the response of the Canadian people and of successive governments to the challenge of world affairs has been the right one.

We have recognized common dangers in the world, admitted our dependence on others in meeting those dangers and thus developed our real strength in collective action. We have made a contribution to world affairs arising less from traditional attributes of power than from a desire to achieve a world community in which all nations could find a secure and prosperous place. We have met dangers and serious problems with a vigorous but controlled response. We can all take some pride in this.

Beyond our own borders, I am heartened to reflect that Canada is associated with nations in every part of the world genuinely committed to peaceful change, to the rights we cherish and to welfare sought co-operatively. Regardless of their individual size, wealth or power, these nations have in their hands the moral leadership of the world.