

B. Foreign Policy

The White Paper "Foreign Policy for Canadians" of 1970 was concerned more with the framework of policy than with the instruments of policy, and made no explicit reference to the role of the Department of External Affairs. It did, however, set out a conceptual framework for Canadian foreign policy which had obvious implications for the role of the Department and it included a section on "Organizing for the Seventies" which described certain new mechanisms for implementing foreign policy. The key sentences from the White Paper are:

"In essence, foreign policy is the product of the Government's progressive definition and pursuit of national aims and interests in the international environment. It is the extension abroad of national policies". (p. 9)

"The Government has decided that there should be maximum integration in its foreign operations that will effectively contribute to the achievement of national objectives". (p. 39)

Pursuant to the second quotation above, the White Paper announced as steps toward an integrated system the establishment of a Committee on External Relations at Deputy Minister level, a Personnel Management Committee, a task force on integration of all support services of the Government's foreign operations and a decision to give heads of posts abroad clear authority over all operations at the post.