

It was Gibbon who once observed that: "There exists in human nature a strong propensity to depreciate the advantages and to magnify the evils of the present time." But I assure you that it is no obsession with the contemporary that suggests that our civilization has come to a crisis point of unprecedented gravity caused by a failure in communication and understanding between peoples of different races, backgrounds and continents. The rapidity of change in virtually all areas of human endeavour today has greatly increased our interdependence and made our task of living together in peace with our fellowmen on this small planet much more complex, much more hazardous and much more imperative than ever before.

The superlative need is for knowledge and for understanding. It is here that the university must accept its primary and fundamental responsibilities to provide more knowledge and more understanding, so as to better lay the foundation-stones for the new international situation in which we find ourselves.

I think it is probably true to say that, when the average graduate of a Canadian university thinks about international affairs, he does so essentially in terms of North America or the North Atlantic triangle, or perhaps Western Europe and the older Commonwealth. In these areas he has a certain background, a certain feeling for history, a certain depth in political theory and in general and basic information. But if he reads about Asia or Africa or South America or China, as so often he does today, he has little or no background. He has few terms of reference and few points of departure and he reads what is offered without perhaps enough critical facility or capacity for judgment.

I think it is here that one can see most clearly the relationship between the university and international affairs in Canada. The academic community performs the invaluable function of increasing the basic fund of knowledge in Canada about developments in international affairs and the problems and attitudes of foreign countries.

Need for More Foreign-Policy Research

We need much more research on foreign-policy problems in Canada. We need more information about foreign countries. This research, to be really meaningful, will in turn require a solid basis of scholarship. As events and developments in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe and in China have to be more and more taken into account in the formulation of our foreign policy, the need for our universities to provide us with the knowledge and understanding of these areas becomes very urgent. Until there exist in our universities strong centres for studying these areas of the world from which good research can be done, a knowledgeable body of experts can be assembled, and undergraduate and graduate courses can be formulated, we shall not develop in Canada that informed and articulate public opinion which in our democracy must constitute the bed-rock upon which our policies are formulated. On this point let me quote to you from the report you are studying at this conference:

"The broad conclusion of this report is that the sound formation in these fields of study has yet to be realized in Canada. There is an urgent need, on the part of Canada as a whole, for development of these studies. This need must therefore be a concern of all Canadian