

Chapter I

WHY REVIEW FOREIGN POLICY

Canada emerged from the Second World War on the leading edge of an internationalism which sought to create a rational world order out of the ruins of "isms" of the thirties. Canada hoped then that its future security and well-being could be safeguarded through strengthening international institutions—especially in the United Nations family of organizations—which were to be the basis for maintaining world peace and achieving human progress.

When it became apparent that many of these co-operative efforts were endangered by the rigidities of the cold war, viable alternatives to the new world order were needed. The threat of Communist armed aggression—first against a weakened Western Europe, later in Korea and Indochina—led to the establishment of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), then the North American Air Defence Command (NORAD) and other security arrangements. These and subsequent peace-keeping operations, and a rather important group of organizations specifically assembled for financial, trade, development and social purposes, relied for their effectiveness on varying degrees of international co-operation.

Canada's foreign policy then was largely concerned with objectives and obligations arising out of active membership in multilateral organizations. Canada's international role, its influence, its self-expression were seen in the context of those intergovernmental bodies. It was all part of the most striking phenomenon of the post-war period—the increasing interdependence of events and nations.