

CANADA'S POINT MAN

Interview with Foreign Affairs Minister John Manley

On September 11, terrorists sought to sow fear, but instead they reaped outrage. Their only notable success was in galvanizing world opinion, and world leadership, against themselves. They induced neither retreat nor resignation. They have assured their own destruction. We will finish what they began, and will emerge stronger, prouder and more united than we ever have been.

—Foreign Affairs Minister John Manley
Speech to the United States
Foreign Policy Association
New York City, November 5, 2001

In the aftermath of the September 11 attacks, Foreign Affairs Minister John Manley is playing a pivotal role in Canada's response to international terrorism.

In addition to his diplomatic duties, he chairs the Ad Hoc Committee of Ministers on Public Security and Anti-Terrorism; this body is reviewing federal government policies, legislation, regulations and programs, and adjusting them to the new security environment.

Canada World View asked for the Minister's perspective on the events of September 11, and their implications for Canadians and for Canada's foreign policy.

Canada World View: Mr. Manley, where were you and what was your reaction when you learned of the attacks?

John Manley: I was on an Air Canada flight out of Frankfurt, on my way home to Canada. One of the flight attendants invited me into a little kitchen area, where I was told the terrible news. I was then taken up to the cockpit, where I was able to keep track of events by listening to a shortwave radio with headphones on. Our flight was one of the

last—possibly the last flight into Canadian airspace before it was closed, and the pilots remarked about how struck they were by the complete lack of chatter over the airwaves. It was eerie. There was nothing else in the air.

As for my reaction to the attacks, of course I was deeply, profoundly shocked. This was a cold-hearted, calculated attack on innocent people. Beyond that, it was an attack on democracy, on our way of life and our values.

Canada World View: As Chair of the Ad Hoc Cabinet Committee, you are at the centre of Canada's response to terrorism. How have you approached this task?

John Manley: The goal is to protect Canadians from terrorist acts. To do this, we must adapt to new and emerging threats and methods of operation. We are working to stop terrorists from getting into Canada; to develop better ways to identify, prosecute, convict and punish those who may be in our country; and to cooperate with the international community to bring terrorists to justice and address the root causes of the hatred which drives them. Another critical task is to make sure that Canada-U.S. border cooperation—which is so important to the economic security of both our countries—does not become another casualty of the events of September 11.

That's a tall order in itself, but at the same time we must do it in such a way that we never lose sight of the values and rights that Canadians hold dear. We must build in all the necessary checks and balances to preserve the free and open character of our society.

The work of the committee is well under way. The government has committed an additional \$7.7 billion in anti-terrorism initiatives [see p. 6].

Canada World View: How strong is the resolve of the international community to fight and eradicate terrorism?

John Manley: There is no doubt that international cooperation will be our most critical tool in the campaign against terrorism. This is a global problem. It's not something that can be tackled by one country alone, so we need to build on alliances. Prime Minister Chrétien has

