

Pacific. In recent years, there has been a particularly great increase in our commercial exchanges with Japan. But this has been largely the reflection of a regional interest on the part of those areas of Canada which naturally look outward to the Pacific rather than to the Atlantic. What is now required is that we pay continuous attention to the Pacific, as well as to the Atlantic, as an area of national interest to all Canadians.

One important step that Canada could take in the Pacific is to exchange diplomatic representatives with the authorities in Peking. We and the rest of the world need to open all possible channels of communication with the government which is in effective control of China. That is why we have recently made the initial contact with representatives of the People's Republic of China to explore the matter of recognition and exchange of embassies.

Going beyond all of Canada's regional or functional interests is our concern to see the United Nations become a more effective instrument for international co-operation and for the achievement of the Charter goals of peace and security, economic and social justice and individual human rights. The UN is an imperfect organization because it reflects an imperfect world. But it is man's most ambitious effort to reconcile differences in the human condition and harmonize the actions of nations. We must look again at our national goals in the United Nations context and identify the changing circumstances of international life as they affect the functioning of the UN. Then we must decide what changes in Canadian policies or techniques may be required as we make common cause with other countries in the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies.

The task for Canadians, as we review our foreign policies, is, first, to determine our own weaknesses. As a middle power, what economic, military and political resources do we have at our disposal and how can we best employ them in the interests of our own people and of the world community? We must also examine realistically the world around us and the changes that are taking place in it. In the light of those changes, should we concentrate more on one function and less on others, or more on one region and less on another?

I expect that the answers to these questions will result in some shift of emphasis in our international activities and some alteration in the methods by which we carry out those activities.

Because foreign policy is never static, we have already begun to bring about some changes. But I doubt very much that we shall abandon completely any functional or regional activity, and I see no need to do so. We don't need to pull out of Europe in order to develop better relations with Latin America or the Pacific. Participating in collective security arrangements is not incompatible with assistance to developing countries or an active part in disarmament negotiations. We may be only a middle power, but we are a nation with the capacity to undertake a good many varied roles in the world if it is in our national interest to do so. The aim of Canadian foreign policy must be to strike the right balance of effort among those roles that are appropriate to our circumstances as a middle power and to the imperatives of the international situation.