

Second, the review involved a stocktaking of the realities of Canada's own situation. Canada is pre-eminently a North American nation. The range and complexity of our relation with the United States needs no underlining. It is a relation marked by the many things we hold in common, both as continental neighbours and internationally. But it is also marked by a great disparity in influence and power. It was natural, therefore, that our review should have turned to the theme of counterweights that has run through so much of Canadian foreign policy. It is in this context that the geographical diversification of Canada's interests emerged as a clear policy direction, and Latin America as one of the areas towards which our efforts should be directed.

Third, the review endeavoured to lodge foreign policy more firmly within the conspectus of national policy and the national interest. There was nothing self-centred or inward-looking about this. On the contrary, some of the main policy themes brought forward by the review -- working for peace and security, promoting social justice, enhancing the quality of life, ensuring a harmonious natural environment -- make it clear that Canada intends to continue to play its part as a responsible member of the international community. But the new orientation was intended to ensure that Canadian foreign policy was shaped by a sense of purpose and direction in keeping pace with a changing world.

All this is relevant to the policy Canada is pursuing in Latin America. It is not just a policy of good intentions; it is a policy that has been identified as reflecting Canada's national interest. It takes account of changing attitudes in Canada and changing realities in Latin America. It recognizes that each Latin American country has its own personality but that there is also a Latin American community that is more than the sum of its parts. It has been formulated on the basis of a careful inventory of what we think we can reasonably do. And we are trying to implement it systematically within the limits of our resources. In all this we think there is an assurance of continuity for our Latin American partners.

We have proceeded from the assumption that nothing should be taken for granted. We have tried to avoid making assumptions unless we could be sure that they reflected hard realities in the minds of Canadians and Latin Americans. We have preferred, instead, to rely on interests manifestly shared and on concerns demonstrably held in common. We have found a shortage of neither.

We look upon Latin America as a promising trading partner. We think that our trade is far from having reached its full potential. We must now proceed systematically to seize the opportunities which the expansion of our respective economies is opening up on both sides. We are confident that Canadian investment can continue to make a useful contribution to Latin American development. We share with Latin Americans a concern to bring the undoubted benefits of foreign investment into line with the priorities and perceptions of the host country. We have a common interest in effective resource management -- to see that resources are developed for the benefit of our economies and with minimum damage to our natural environment. We want to see account taken of these principles in the evolving law of the sea. We are