

## P R E F A C E

The year 1969 has been marred by conflict and tragedy in the world around us. At home, Canada's role in international affairs has been subjected to intense questioning, systematically in the continuing review being carried on through the Department of External Affairs and, more generally, by concerned Canadians interested in one or another specific situation or in the whole question of the part Canada should play in the international scene. The Government's review of foreign policy is nearing completion and a White Paper will be tabled in Parliament in the spring of 1970.

Some results of the review process have already had a bearing on our external policies. The decision, announced on April 3 by the Prime Minister, to continue as a full member of the NATO alliance while reducing our forces stationed in Europe arose from the special study of Canada's relations with Europe and the complementary study of defence policy. Both studies were carried out by interdepartmental study groups under the chairmanship of the department principally concerned.

The NATO decision reflects the geographical dimension of the review. The decision to stay in the alliance indicates that as our external policy develops we are not reducing the importance of our traditional ties with Europe; the decision to reduce our forces in Europe indicates at once Canada's view that the European members of NATO can now accept more responsibility for their own defence and the changes taking place in Canada's outlook upon the world. Our traditional ties with Europe and the United States have not been weakened; at the same time, we are coming to accept more fully our responsibilities as a nation on the Pacific Rim, our responsibilities in the Arctic archipelago and its waters, our responsibilities toward the nations of Latin America and our responsibilities, as a senior member of the community of French-speaking nations, toward the newer *francophone* countries of Africa and Asia. In the geographical dimension, the year 1969 has seen not so much a change of position as an enlargement of view, a necessary reorientation to meet the realities of Canada's position in the new world that has come into being since the end of the Second World War.

The foreign policy review has also a conceptual dimension. During the year, the Department of External Affairs has been working toward a redefinition of the principles and objectives of our foreign policy and toward a better understanding of how foreign policy relates to national policy in the broadest sense and to domestic policy in particular.

In the year under review, the Government's policy of fiscal restraint required the Department to cut back on the planned expansion of our activities abroad and to carry out a program of redeployment of personnel. This involved a decision to close resident missions in Berlin, Vientiane, Phnom Penh, Nicosia, Montevideo, Quito and Santo Domingo. This action was taken with great regret and after careful study. In every case, adequate steps have been taken to ensure that Canada's trade and other interests will be looked after through other nearby posts.