

Synopsis

--Canadians know we must move with the major global changes taking place and benefit from them by managing change rather than being its victim.

--Canada has a solid reputation as a country that uses its influence to create a safer, more humane and more prosperous world.

--This government has already accomplished several major objectives internationally--among them negotiating the Free Trade Agreement with the U.S.A. to strengthen our ability to compete globally, being instrumental in placing the Commonwealth in the vanguard of a fight against apartheid and being an early supporter of urgent international action to safeguard a threatened biosphere.

--Challenges facing us now include:

--Dramatic changes in the global economy. The Asia/Pacific region is moving toward the centre of the world economy, the countries of the European community will create a single economic community in 1992, and a new competitive climate is emerging, emphasizing technology, speculation and mobile capital.

--East/West relations are on the threshold of a new era of growing co-operation and trust.

--We face increasing threats to world security including poverty, frightening levels of debt that threaten social and political stability and a deteriorating environment.

--What can Canada do to meet these challenges?

--Economically, we are putting in place a strategy for Canada to compete successfully in the global economy of the nineties. We will consolidate our ties with the U.S.A. We will develop long term, sound economic relationships with Japan, Western Europe and the newly industrialized countries, especially those in Asia, balanced by cultural interchange and dialogue at all levels.

--In the area of security we will exploit new opportunities created by improved East/West relations. We want to co-operate with the Soviet Union on Arctic questions, on the environment and in strengthening peace globally. Later this year, the Prime Minister will visit the Soviet Union and this will do much to advance our agenda with the East.

--Among other initiatives to strengthen security, we will maintain a well-funded development assistance program, directed especially at the poorest. As a Security Council member, we will use our influence and resources to contribute to the resolution of regional conflicts in Asia and Africa. We will continue encouraging the international community to maintain pressure on South Africa to end apartheid and we will go on helping the victims of apartheid in that country.

--In all this we will be guided by pragmatism and realism and solid day-to-day work, rather than by dramatic gestures.