

with France, and support for constructive international organization. None of these applications have diminished in importance, but circumstances have so changed as to require a much broader view now than was either possible or necessary 20 years ago. Indeed, there is now no part of the world which lies outside the scope of Canadian foreign policy.

In the period since the war, there have been two particularly significant changes in the nature of international affairs which have had major implications for our foreign policy. The first is the very great increase in the number of sovereign, independent states during the last 20 years, resulting from the dissolution of the old European empires in Africa and Asia. This change has, of course, been most strikingly illustrated in the continent of Africa, where the number of independent countries has increased from four in 1945 to 37 today.

The emergence into the mainstream of world affairs of so many newly-independent states has had implications far beyond the increase in absolute numbers. For many of the new nations, independence has been only the first step in the often difficult and agonizing process of nation-building. In the great majority of them, standards of material well-being have been extremely low, and the complex technological and industrial society which we now almost take for granted in the older, Western countries was virtually unknown. Under the circumstances, it was only to be expected that instability and uncertainty would characterize the newly-independent states as they embarked on the enormous and challenging task of simultaneously building modern economies and modern national societies.

The second major change in the nature of international affairs which deserves special mention is the greatly increased complexity and diversity of economic relations between states. While trade has traditionally been one of the first and most important factors in bringing peoples and nations into contact with one another, trade is now only one aspect of the economic relations between states, and even it has grown immensely both in volume and complexity over the years. Other, newer aspects of international economic relations include those in the fields of monetary management and of development assistance.

The evolving nature of economic relations between states has given rise to the establishment of a whole range of influential international organizations, such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. There is also, of course, the United Nations itself, which, through the United Nations Development Programme and the various Specialized Agencies, has assumed major responsibilities in the economic field. The importance of this is underlined by the fact that four-fifths of the financial and manpower resources available to the United Nations system are now applied to the tasks of economic development.

The international effort which is now being made to assist the economic development of the developing countries is perhaps the most clear-cut, practical illustration of the widespread realization that nations are not rivals