

- 7.1 **The Committee recommends that Canadian policy be driven by the need to protect our vital interests: the preservation of Canadian sovereignty and independence, and the capacity to play the sort of active and independent role in the world that Canadians demand. We believe that such a policy requires a commensurate allocation of resources to the instruments to implement it, be they in the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and its missions abroad, other government departments engaged abroad, or in Parliament.**

Response

The Government agrees that Canadian policy should be driven by the need to protect our vital interests. The Government is strongly committed to meeting its fiscal objectives and to applying sound financial management to government operations. Priorities will be set with fiscal constraints in mind. Reallocation of resources will be made on this basis. Operational adjustments are also being made — including a better use of technology — to enhance the efficiency of program delivery. Further substantive actions in this direction are expected to emerge from the comprehensive program review.