

Social Justice

Quality of Life

Harmonious Natural Environment.

There has been a tendency on the part of some observers at home and abroad to identify these themes as national objectives and to lose sight of the fact that they are the means of achieving national aims. Economic growth, for example, is not an end in itself, but it is fundamental to achievement of the national aims -- unity, independence, prosperity, distinct identity.

Other observers have suggested that these themes amount to an arbitrary segmentation of policy. They see a framework that permits little flexibility. The divisions may be arbitrary but the policy themes do overlap. There is overlapping between "Peace and Security" and "Sovereignty and Independence". The three themes "Social Justice", "Quality of Life" and "Harmonious Natural Environment" obviously overlap.

The framework I am discussing does not exist for its own sake; it is an instrument for thinking about policy and shaping it. There is no particular magic to the number six or to the terminology used. However defined, the themes cover the whole field of policy, domestic and foreign; one is an extension of the other. The difficulty with a listing of any kind, particularly in a printed document, is that people see an expression of priority in the order of presentation. No such priority is intended and it would make no sense. All these themes are essential ingredients of national policy and all engage the Government's attention at all times.

They apply both to domestic policy and to foreign policy. For a great trading country like Canada, economic growth cannot be fostered at home without working to improve the health of the world economy. Safeguarding sovereignty and independence requires international recognition as well as domestic action. Peace and security are world-wide problems. Social justice cannot be compartmentalized; one cannot oppose discrimination abroad and practise it at home. The quality of life is enhanced by contacts with other peoples. Canadians, with their vast coastline and long frontier with the United States, are aware that pollution of the environment knows no political boundaries.

These six policy themes gave us the framework. To use it effectively and to give a sense of direction to our future policy we had to decide upon some pattern of emphasis among them.

Any pattern of emphasis is open to misinterpretation and to deliberate distortion and to the exigencies of changing circumstances.

Looking at the world today, Canada's current needs and the resources we have available, the Government decided that more emphasis than in the past should be placed upon "Economic Growth", "Social Justice" and "Quality of Life". This does not and cannot suggest that the Government is any less concerned with other policy themes, above all, "Peace and Security".

On the other hand, the survival of Canada as a nation is being challenged internally by divisive forces. This underlines further the need