

United Nations. To quote briefly from *Canada in the World*: "The UN continues to be the key vehicle for pursuing Canada's global security objectives." The last sentence of this 1995 foreign policy statement is very relevant to my theme today: "The Government is confident that Canada will continue to do its fair share for the world, and that the community of nations will continue to look to Canada for our unique contribution to global governance."

For fifty years, in word and in deed, Canada has demonstrated its commitment to the United Nations. That commitment has entailed enlightened internationalism. It is a vital expression of Canadian national interest during a period of ever increasing globalisation and heightened interdependence of nations.

Not only Canada but the United Nations as well has gained from our contribution—and that fact deserves to be trumpeted. Our representatives have practised "quiet diplomacy" almost too well. Our own image of Canada, its influence and its power, still have to catch up to reality or indeed to the image which other nations have of Canada at the UN as in other world fora. We are so accustomed to "playing our part" and "doing our share", modestly, that we sometimes forget or refuse to believe how vital that participation is to the international community.

By any measure, Canada is an important participant in the UN and other international institutions. Our economy is among the seven most powerful in the world. Canada is one of the foremost trading nations in a highly competitive world, and more than a third of our wealth comes from exports. Canada makes the fourth largest monetary contribution to the UN system as a whole. Canada is a leading member of both the Commonwealth and la Francophonie, as well as of regional groupings such as the Organization of American States and its counterpart in Asia and the Pacific. We have a foreign policy which is anchored in three distinct and vital relationships within the western hemisphere, Europe and the Pacific rim. In an international system now composed of some 185 countries, Canada is no longer a middle power. In all of these groups and spheres, our influence is keenly felt and our contribution is avidly sought.

So when important questions are raised, such as reform of the United Nations, those around the table listen to what we have to say. We have earned their respect. Our responsibility now, as Canadians and as citizens of the world, is to consider all facets of this much-needed reform carefully, and to make deliberate and thoughtful recommendations.

Following my own advice, I have the temerity to offer a few suggestions, today, as Canada ponders its submissions for UN reforms. I will address the blue-beret role of the UN as well as its other humanitarian and economic activities.