
VII. THE PATH AHEAD

The Government is thus pledged to develop Canadian foreign policy based on its commitment to promoting prosperity, protecting security and projecting our values in the context of a rapidly evolving world, against the backdrop of tight resources.

The continued participation and support of Canadians will be critical to our success.

A more consultative foreign policy process.

Carrying forward this consultative approach to foreign policy formulation, we will create and reinforce the instruments and institutions we need to ensure that the voice of Canadians can be heard:

- The Government will conduct annually a National Forum on Canada's International Relations. In the future, each Forum meeting will consider a specific issue proposed by the Government in order to develop policy recommendations. The next Forum will be convened in Toronto in the spring of 1995.
- Based on the model of its regular consultations with the business community through the ITAC and SAGIT processes and with partners in the NGO/human rights community, the Government will expand and institutionalize this process by establishing a series of active consultations with other groups and individuals interested in the international dimensions of economic relations, development and political affairs.
- The Government has also decided to establish a new mechanism within DFAIT for foreign policy consultation, research and outreach that will bring together government practitioners, parliamentarians, experts and citizens.

A larger role for Parliament.

The work of the Special Joint Parliamentary Committee, culminating in its impressive report of November 15, 1994, has proved an inspiration in reconfirming the central role that the Government wishes to see Parliament play in foreign policy formulation.

- We recommend that informal consultations be held in the future on major foreign policy issues between Ministers and the relevant Parliamentary Committees.
- As well, the Government will turn to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade and