

25 years have brought home to us that our traditional orientation toward Western Europe and the United States cannot sufficiently serve our interests. We must come to terms with the geographical, political and economic realities of modern Canada. As the Prime Minister said in Calgary last year, we are not just a North Atlantic nation and an American nation, we are an Arctic nation and a Pacific nation. These extra dimensions of Canada are seen in sharper focus here in Edmonton than in the East. The presence here today of Junior Chambers of Commerce from the Northwest Territories is evidence of the close ties you have with the North. The fast-growing trade the West generally, and British Columbia and Alberta particularly, have with Japan and other nations to the West of us is evidence of Canada's growing importance as a Pacific nation.

Some observers, notably Europeans, decry what they perceive as a lessening of our ties with Europe. This is a misunderstanding of what is happening. We are not changing our perspective, we are enlarging it. Nor are we engaging in any kind of adventuristic realignment in political terms; we remain committed and faithful to our alliances -- with the NATO nations for the defence of the Western world, with the United States in NORAD for the security of the continent we share. We are taking our proper place in the community of nations, seeing the whole world in a Canadian perspective, developing a foreign policy that will best serve the interests of all Canadians.

You will be relieved to learn that I do not intend to expound to you this evening all the ramifications of Canadian foreign policy -- toward Africa, and particularly francophone Africa, Latin America, the Middle East and the Communist world. This is not an occasion to produce in summary form the White Papers that will be published later this year.

Orientation in the Postwar World

The review of our foreign policy takes into account the orientation of modern Canada to the new world that has emerged since the Second World War. It also has a conceptual dimension. Foreign policy in Canada has traditionally been regarded as a matter for professionals, of great importance for the preservation of our sovereignty and territorial integrity but having little effect on the daily lives of Canadians. This is changing. In part, the change is a result of the explosion of communications, the coming into being of the "global village". We have more immediate information of events today in Nigeria than we had of events in another part of Canada 50 years ago. In part the change is due to the growing realization that foreign policy is not a thing in itself but rather an external dimension of domestic policy. Both are aspects of one central national policy -- to preserve and strengthen Canada and to preserve and enhance the well-being of all Canadians now and for the future. External policy itself has several dimensions, two of which are the political and economic. These too are indissolubly linked. We must be equally concerned with the preservation of our national sovereignty and the preservation of our economic health. Both of these are essential to the well-being of all our people, particularly in our case, where, as a great trading nation, we must steadily increase our exports or wither away into penury. There is a common misconception that my Department in Ottawa, with its posts and embassies abroad, serves some generalized national interest. I suppose it does, but this isn't the whole story. The purpose of Canadian missions abroad is to serve the interests of all parts of Canada, and all sectors of the Canadian economy. They do this in close co-operation with our sister Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, which provides a component