

In recent decades, these values have operated through the legal and political system of Canada to support legislation under which substantial amounts of resources have been transferred from wealthy to poor regions and classes of Canadian society. It is the sense of obligation to the less-affluent that underlies a progressive tax system, a system of free general public education, widespread pension plans, regional development plans, and general health-care programmes; all of these programmes are designed to provide a distribution of opportunities and rewards for the individual members of Canadian society that is consistent with the sense of justice and obligation of Canadians. It was in large measure an extension of this sense of social obligation and justice to the people in the less-fortunate countries that helped provide public support for the transfer of large amounts of Canadian resources to those countries in the post-war period.

The increasing awareness of poverty in the developing countries will thus be imposed upon a Canadian society in which concern for the welfare of others is one of the central values. To ignore that awareness would therefore be tantamount to a regression to a form of society in which the values of that society are inverted at its boundary. On the other hand, to recognize and act on the awareness would, in a real sense, reflect, extend and reinforce those values which are central to the creation of the kind of society which Canadians wish for themselves. A society able to ignore poverty abroad will find it much easier to ignore it at home; a society concerned about poverty and development abroad will be concerned about poverty and development at home. We could not create a truly just society within Canada if we were not prepared to play our part in the creation of a more just world society. Thus our foreign policy in this field becomes a continuation of our domestic policy.

In many respects, Canada is one of the most international of nations. We are both an Atlantic and a Pacific nation. We occupy the land that lies between the world's two great powers, the United States and the Soviet Union. The people of Canada derive from many lands and cultures. We depend for our prosperity to a greater extent than most countries on international trade and a healthy world economy. The values of Canadian society, as well as the future prosperity and security of Canadians, are closely and inextricably linked to the future of the wider world community of which we are a part. It is thus important for Canada that we accept our fair share of the responsibilities of membership in the world community.

It is also in our own interest to do so. We could not expect to find the same sympathy for Canadian interest or support for Canadian policies