

STATEMENT BY THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
THE HONOURABLE MITCHELL SHARP

This is the third seminar on foreign policy arranged by the Canadian Institute of International Affairs. We have found the previous two of great help in considering Canadian policy in Europe and in Latin America.

As has been pointed out in the draft review, there is no wish to change policy merely for the sake of change. What has guided us has been the desire to examine the fundamentals of Canadian foreign policy in the light of a changing Canada and a changing world. We want to try to ensure that the priorities we choose are the right ones in that they take into account the best way in which Canada can make its contribution in the international sphere.

It is a particularly interesting task to review Canadian policy in relation to the United Nations. I have referred to the fact that we have already had seminars to discuss two areas of importance to Canada - Europe and Latin America. In the last twenty years there have been profound changes in Europe and Latin America. The United Nations has also changed profoundly. The increase in membership through decolonization, and the emphasis placed on economic development by two-thirds of the members, have been reflected in procedure, conduct of business, and size and numbers of subordinate organs. At the same time the basic realities of world power as reflected in the military and economic strength of a minority of members have not changed. It is this paradox that results in so much frustration and dissatisfaction on the part of those who really expect far more from the organization than it is able to do and results too, sometimes, in the perfect becoming the enemy of the possible. Thus we too often have what Mr. Arenales, the President of the Assembly, referred to in his statement closing the 23rd session, as the unrealistic and emotional approach of a majority of delegates. He described them as using their talents to produce resolutions while "forgetting that the evils of this world are not cured simply by negotiated resolutions but by the action of governments". He went on to say that the task of the organization was not fulfilled only by the adoption of resolutions but required an essential counterpart, "namely, the fulfillment of its objectives by the governments which make up the international community".

Mr. Arenales also referred to the disillusion with