

of dynamic change. Events thousands of miles away or next door can alter international relations. Domestic developments can affect external relations. Forecasting is perhaps more difficult in this field than in any other. To quote the report:

"The problem is to produce a clear, complete picture from circumstances which are dynamic and ever-changing. It must be held in focus long enough to judge what is really essential to the issue under consideration, to enable the Government to act on it decisively and effectively. That picture gets its shape from information gathered from a variety of sources -- public or official -- and sifted and analyzed systematically. The correct focus can only be achieved if all the elements of a particular policy question can be looked at in a conceptual framework which represents the main lines of national policy at home and abroad."

The framework could be constructed in a number of different ways, but it must have at its core the basic national aims. These aims will necessarily be pursued in both a domestic and an international context which, however distinct, are closely related. These environmental factors present themselves as a kaleidoscope of challenges, threats, opportunities and constraints. And it is a kaleidoscope. No one could have foreseen the untimely death of President Nasser; no one can yet say what the effects will be. A change of leadership in the Soviet Union could profoundly alter the international climate.

However described, the national aims embrace three essential ideas:

- (1) That Canada will continue secure as an independent political entity;
- (2) that Canada and all Canadians will enjoy enlarging prosperity in the widest possible sense;
- (3) that all Canadians will see in the life they have and in the contribution they make to humanity something worthwhile preserving in identity and purpose.

These ideas encompass the main preoccupation of Canada and Canadians, today or at any other time. Foremost among these are national unity, personal freedom, national identity, economic and social progress and humanitarian aspirations.

The supporting framework for this core is made up of the means whereby these aims can be achieved. The Government has presented these as themes of national policy. They are:

Economic Growth

Sovereignty and Independence

Peace and Security