

If you need further answers to that ritual of doubt, ask children in Ethiopia; ask the Contadora countries; ask the Western group we chaired at the Nairobi Conference; ask the West Germans, who must live daily beside massive armament, and received a strong signal of common solidarity through an additional twelve hundred Canadian troops newly sent to NATO; ask the people of Holland after the Second World War. Ask the Cypriots who for 20 years have been spared the bloody ravages of civil war thanks to the few hundred Canadian soldiers making up the thin blue line in Nicosia. Ask Jamaica and Zimbabwe and the Philippines and the more than 20 other countries who would all be helped if the world accepts our Prime Minister's Third Window proposal.

I did not accept your invitation to attack your title. Unhappily, it accurately reflects a conventional skepticism about our international role, which I hope we can leave behind as part of the baggage of our national adolescence. I say conventional skepticism, because that was not at all the mood of the Canadians who designed NATO, or established the UNEF, or found local sponsors for boat people, or negotiated the Law of the Sea. We have an envied tradition of using limited resources to accomplish great ends, and the fact is that our resources and our ability, and if we wish it our influence, are growing. The fact that we - and much of the world - are looking to economic growth as the instrument of progress strengthens the position of this nation, with our humanitarian traditions and modern economy. By the way, when I say much of the world, I include Mr. Gorbachev, Mr. Deng, Mr. Kadar, Mr. Quett Masire, and leaders of other countries reforming their economies, whether timidly or boldly. Some have a certain advantage in size, or access to markets, but we are leaders in technology and in trust, currencies that count.

When I tabled the government's Green Paper on Canada's international relations last May, we aimed to start along a path towards addressing this question of using our limited resources to best effect.

In recent years, the world has undergone dramatic changes. The most salient features for Canada are that we can take our prosperity and our security much less for granted. As the Green Paper noted, where once we could rely on our natural resources for wealth and on our geographic location for security, neither can any longer assure us of the peaceful and prosperous future we used to assume would be ours. Instead, we are faced with international economic and political trends which, if left unattended, could seriously diminish our national wealth and perhaps even lead us and the world to the brink of disaster.

We want to be effective internationally, but that requires influence. Our influence derives in large measure