

International

Canada begins review of its foreign policy

Canadians must take a hard look at foreign policy if they want to compete in international markets and influence world peace, says a discussion paper released by External Affairs Minister Joe Clark.



External Affairs Minister Joe Clark

The green paper on foreign policy – which outlines government options – says Canada can no longer take its prosperity and national security for granted, nor isolate itself behind barriers. 'The world will not allow us that luxury. The whole range of international issues – economic, political and security – now extends unavoidably into our daily lives.'

The paper asks about 50 questions on a wide range of topics from defence to development aid, human rights and Canada's traditional roles in international institutions and relations with various countries and regions of the world. But the main emphasis is on economic issues, particularly trade and competitiveness and their effect on jobs and the standard of living. 'All countries are affected by economic developments in other countries,' the paper says.

The green paper points out that the most direct threat to Canadian security comes from the Soviet Union's military capabilities and 'antipathy to our values', as well as from the consequent distrust and competition between East and West. It notes that the 'economics of security' are a problem for all countries.

It acknowledges the declining state of Canada's military equipment, and says Canadians

will have to decide how much they want to spend to improve it 'when our budget deficit is so enormous.' The paper touches on other key defence issues, including the American research programme on space-based weapons, the Strategic Defence Initiative. And it asks whether there are new, practical ideas that Canadians can bring to multilateral arms control discussions.

The paper notes that faith in multilateral institutions in general and the United Nations in particular is flagging, but it seeks ways to revive them. Also, it asks whether Canada should encourage a return to United Nations sponsorship of peace-keeping operations.

Other questions raised in the paper include: Do Canadians believe that declaring support for nuclear freeze proposals builds confidence or leads to eventual reductions in such weapons? How can Canada and other countries work to change apartheid, 'South Africa's repugnant form of legalized racial discrimination,' without isolating that country? Is foreign investment part of the problem or part of the solution? Are aid programmes in central America an adequate contribution to stability or should Canada involve itself more?

Canada ratifies European convention

Canada has ratified the European Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons, signed at Strasbourg, France, headquarters of the Council of Europe, on March 21, 1983. The convention came into force on July 1, 1985, and will be binding on Canada from September 1, 1985.

Canada is not a member of the Council of Europe, and this marks the first time it has endorsed a convention developed by the Council. Drawing on Canada's experience in the transfer of offenders, Canadian experts were instrumental in the drafting of the convention.

Under the convention, Canadians imprisoned in countries which are party to it, will be allowed to serve the remainder of sentences in Canada. The transfer of

sentenced persons will take place only at their request and after all rights of appeal have been exhausted in the sentencing country. Also, all transfers will be subject to approval of both the countries involved.

This is Canada's seventh treaty on the transfer of offenders: bilateral agreements are in force with France, Mexico, Peru, and the United States, while those with Bolivia and Thailand await ratification.

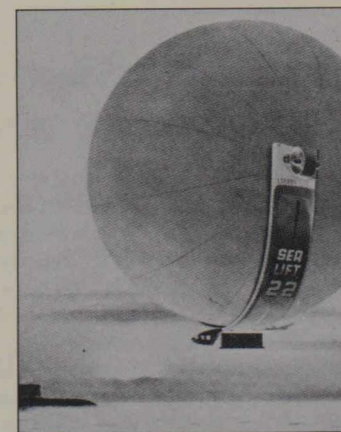
In addition to Canada, five countries – France, Spain, Sweden, Britain and the United States – have ratified the convention. Other states among the 21 members of the Council of Europe are expected to become parties to it.

Trade

Canadian companies a hit at offshore exhibition

When 36 Canadian companies participated at the recent Offshore Technology Conference and Exhibition (OTC 85) in Houston, Texas, they presented one of the world's most comprehensive displays of offshore technology, leading to the signing of many new contracts. On-site sales amounted to \$7.2 million, and some \$109.8 million in follow-up orders were also made.

In addition, the companies at the national stand, sponsored by the Department of External Affairs, appointed 17 agents and distributors for their products and services, with another 42 agents pending, and received more than 640 serious inquiries.



Artists concept of a heavy-lift airship

The products and services displayed by the Canadian companies at the trade fair included drilling units, ice-breakers, oceanographic survey services, submersibles, diesel engines and custom engineered equipment products and technical services.

Survival and immersion suits, heavy lift air vehicles, wire ropes, offshore pressure vessels, cranes, remote-controlled underwater vehicles, colour imaging sonar, recovery units, solar-powered intelligent buoys and helicopters, were also among the items on view.

For further information about these exhibitions, contact: Commercial and Economic Division, Canadian High Commission (see address inside cover).

Com Dev expands into European market

Com Dev Limited, a major Canadian supplier of microwave components and sub-systems for the communications satellite market in North America, has established a wholly-owned subsidiary in the UK (at Tring in Hertfordshire) as part of its expansion into Europe.

Com Dev is a private Canadian company, incorporated in 1971, which has experienced rapid growth over the past few years (1984 turnover was \$21 million). The company's success is based on supplying advanced microwave equipment to major communication spacecraft contractors, both in North America and in Europe. Thirty-four communication satellites now in orbit carry Com Dev equipment; by 1988, more than 60 satellites will be in orbit with Com Dev equipment.

Many of Com Dev's high-power earth station products are spin-offs from equipment originally developed for a space environment. Virtually every major builder of earth stations in the western world uses some Com Dev components. Recently, Com Dev extended its business into defence systems, signal processing and antenna systems.

The company is already supplying microwave equipment on the European Space Agency