

us are growing, reflecting a new spirit of maturity and equality. We are partners, along with others, in shared efforts to improve the human condition and create wider avenues of communication between East and West and between potential adversaries everywhere.

In Canada's view no part of this effort to reduce world tensions is more urgent than the need to curb nuclear proliferation. We are a major supplier of uranium and nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. We have a responsibility, therefore, to make every effort to achieve a strong international safeguards régime. Canada has accepted that responsibility and over the years has developed an ever more comprehensive policy governing the sale and export of all nuclear materials and technology. Today we are in advance of all other countries in this regard, and we are encouraged by the steps others are taking towards a global consensus. It is a formidable task and there are still legitimate differences even among countries fully committed to the principle of non-proliferation. Canada shared in and supports fully the decision taken at the recent Summit Meeting here in London to study fully all of the implications of nuclear technology and particularly such contentious issues as reprocessing and the emerging trend towards a so-called "plutonium economy". The current oil crisis and the shock waves it has created make it imperative that we explore all energy alternatives. Canada believes, however, that the nuclear option, while an essential element in the world energy strategy, should only be exploited under the strictest possible international controls and by methods generally agreed upon as the safest that can be devised.

The Canadian role in the present international nuclear discussions is illustrative of how Canadian foreign policy is being shaped to reflect Canadian interests and to exert our influence in those fields where, quite clearly, we have a major role to play. Another example is the United Nations Law of the Sea Conference where Canada is playing a pivotal part and where, very often, our national interests are on all fours with global objectives. Europeans tend very naturally to think of Canada primarily in terms of North Atlantic region issues. But we are a Pacific power also, and increasingly we are emphasizing our economic and political association with Pacific rim countries and our support for such organizations as ASEA, the Association of South East Asian Nations. We have moved also to strengthen Canadian ties with Latin America through aid to its poorer countries and trade with its emerging powers.

Canada's unshakable commitment to democratic principles needs no defence. We have long felt, however, that the cause of world peace and security is best served by keeping open and widening the channels of communication to those who espouse different political ideologies, specifically the Soviet Union, the Peoples Republic of China and other Communist countries. Since, like all democracies we must sometimes take issue with certain policies of these countries far better that we do so fully, frankly and face to face. Canada, therefore, supports in appropriate ways, all efforts to strengthen detente and is actively pursuing the liberalization of trade with the Soviet Bloc and China.