

in the East-West framework, and the North-South dialogue.

Our attempts at crisis management through united action by the West have been manifested with respect to the Afghanistan, Iranian and Polish crises in the past year, and we feel with growing success....

I noted at the NATO meetings in December that I attended in Brussels that there was, after a year of our urgings and after a year of crises, a kind of consensus emerging that we simply had to join in crisis management in the West and that this could not be left to happenstance. That meeting to me was an indication of the fact that our foreign policy is beginning to bear fruit.

Of course, with respect to our other great initiative in that area, the North-South dialogue, the Prime Minister's contribution to that has been certainly manifested in recent days in his attempt to persuade some countries of the South, some countries of the North and some which, while belonging to the South — like the oil-producing countries — are in a sense in a special category, belonging neither to the North nor the South.

We are pursuing this, with a view to the Economic Summit in Ottawa in July, with a view to the expected conference of nations on North-South questions in Mexico, and with a view to the Commonwealth Conference in Melbourne in September....

But the world is multi-dimensional, not one-dimensional and our foreign policy must be too. It is not enough for us to be the world's leading internationalists, though we must not lose that distinction. Side by side with our internationalism, we must also emphasize a policy of bilateralism which will directly serve our national interests.

### New policy

...As a result of studies which have been commissioned and carried out and now, as the result of a Cabinet decision, I am able to announce today a new policy of bilateralism on the part of Canada.

Few objectives in the foreign policy field can be achieved without lengthy and persistent efforts. Canada must be prepared to concentrate its resources to achieve the necessary political relationships with key countries, deploying in a selective manner all political instruments of the state including visits at the highest level. Such instruments can include trade

policy, access to Canadian resources, contractual links between governments, bilateral defence understandings, cultural and information programs and, in some circumstances, even development assistance.

The government must be prepared at times to let longer-term general considerations affecting the relationship to take precedence over shorter-term interests of a narrower character. The relationships must be subject to central policy management, bringing to bear on them the key considerations of credibility, coherence and planning. The fact that we have limited human and financial resources and that we are proceeding, argue that our global approach to other countries must also be selected in line with our basic goals. We have to concentrate our energies and our resources to attain these goals. Priorities among relationships are therefore necessary, and the definition of these priorities must be systematized.

### Countries of concentration

As a basic instrument of its global, differentiated foreign policy, the government has therefore decided to give concentrated attention to a select number of countries of concentration. The purpose is generally to strengthen long-term relationships with these countries because of their relevance to our long-term domestic development objectives. But the importance of the countries in question would also devolve from their relevance to our over-all objectives and interests. Such a list would include both long-established countries of



Canada's internationalist tradition includes activities such as peacekeeping.

concentration and relative newcomers.

The most obvious bilateral relationship of benefit to Canada is that with the United States. In many basic aspects, the relationship is central to our foreign policy considerations and vital to our development. But it is a relationship which we in Canada — both government and business — must manage coherently and productively, with a clear sense of our economic and other priorities. It is true, no doubt, that some Canadian economic imperatives differ from those of the United States. But this need not deter us in assisting each other in achieving our national objectives.

Other relationships are, of course, vital to us. Our fastest growing markets for capital goods are in Latin America, in the Middle East and with partners not presently among our traditional relationships. If you have watched the itineraries of my colleague, Minister of State for Trade Development, Lumley, and myself, you will have noticed that we have been concentrating on certain areas of the world where we believe Canada's long-term interests will best be served....

I believe, however, that we must be very clear about the nature of these bilateral relationships and the qualities they should have. I think that if they are to be consistent and enduring we must be prepared to pursue them on a long-term basis. Our approaches have to be planned. And the execution of our foreign bilateral policy must be coherent. In this, all the relevant instruments of governments should be called on to serve the relationship. To the extent possible, we shall have to avoid contradictions in our relationships. To achieve this our criteria for selecting key economic partners for Canada cannot be solely economic. We shall have to take account of a variety of political factors, such as compatibility of values, cultural links and mutuality of interest in other spheres.

I think that in Canada both the public and private sectors of our economy should recognize our potential for influence. Occasionally, we should not be afraid of establishing linkages in our relations, so that we can bring one issue into play *vis-à-vis* another in a positive and productive way. We must also be more focused in Canada in developing common purposes and in resorting more readily to foreign policy as an instrument of real national benefit.

(Continued on P. 8)