

The purpose of this statement is to provide a short background account of some of the major preoccupations and activities of the Department of External Affairs and of CIDA by way of a prologue to the discussions on estimates.

It has become fashionable recently for foreign policy analysts and foreign ministers, including myself, to report the end of the post war era of international relations, the emergence of new power centres, and a new pattern of relationships contending with a new and increasingly complex range of problems. However, the nature of these changes is of a magnitude and relevance to the tasks of External Affairs and CIDA, that they bear highlighting to this Committee.

A new constellation of international relationships has emerged in which power is likely to be more widely diffused. The new centres of gravity are, of course, the EEC, Japan and China. Almost every major area of the globe is profoundly affected by the changes.

In Europe the enlargement of the EEC has underscored the economic and political cohesion of that region. Détente is very much on the move. Chancellor Willy Brandt's Ost Politik, the opening of substantive discussions on European security and MDR, The Agreement on Berlin and the initial SALT understanding, are contributing to a less abrasive and potentially more productive political climate.