

To overcome the difficulties of establishing this dialogue, a convention became accepted that the persons of these envoys, or heralds as they were called, were sacred. This was the beginning of the idea of diplomatic privileges and immunities.

The diplomat was born of a need of essentially hostile states to find some method of communication. There was an early understanding that national interests transcended borders. It is this same conception -- the need for dialogue -- which prompts the Canadian decision to make arrangements to send representatives to another country. The basic reason for this gesture is a national one -- the advancement of the national interest. The most obvious external interest, which is still perhaps the strongest single force in international affairs, is the exchange of goods: in a word, trade.

In its paper *Foreign Policy for Canadians* issued in 1970, the Canadian Government summed up what it meant by foreign policy in these words: "In essence, foreign policy is the product of the Government's progressive definition and pursuit of national aims and interests in the international environment. It is the extension abroad of national policies."

Canada's external interests have grown with our evolving status from colony, to an autonomous part of an empire, through to full independence.

Our posts abroad grew from an initial two, in London and Paris, whose status was something less than that of a full diplomatic mission. Our first true foreign mission was the Legation in Washington, established in 1927. From that time on until 1939, a few other legations and embassies were established. But it was not until the Second World War that, through our alliances, we saw a great expansion of our diplomatic missions abroad.

Canada emerged from the Second World War with considerable economic strength and a new sense of independence. The war had taken many Canadians abroad and had kindled throughout the country a tremendous interest in the world outside Canada's borders.

Canadians became one of the world's most travelled people. Today, there are two million valid Canadian passports in circulation, and my Department expects to issue another 500,000 this year. This great interest in the world outside our borders stems, I think, from the recognition that Canada depends, perhaps more than most other industrialized states, for its well-being and security on trade and co-operation with others. We also look abroad for the expressi