

For nearly four years now, I have had the great honour to represent our country as Secretary of State for External Affairs. I have talked to thousands of people - real people, not just officials and Ministers - in Africa and Asia, Europe and Latin America, the United States and the Soviet Union; and I have sought out the views of hundreds of individual Canadians - exporters, missionaries, investors, aid workers, MPs, diplomats, students, professors and artists who make Canada work in the world.

One lesson I have learned is that international policy, far from being foreign, lies at the heart of every day interests of Canadians. In this world of instant communication and nuclear weapons, in this modern trading country, foreign policy is domestic policy. Isolation is not an option for Canada. We could not draw back from the world, even if we wanted to. And Canadians don't want to, and never have.

In two world wars, Canadian soldiers left for European fields, some never to return. To and from this port, every day, commodities come and commodities go out, dramatizing the reality that this country depends more on foreign trade than Britain does, or France, or the United States, or Japan. The universities here are involved intimately in the solution of problems around the world. So is the Asia Pacific Foundation and the business community. So are the thousands of British Columbians and other Canadians who contribute to UNICEF or to Save the Children, or our churches or our service clubs or our peace movements or our export seminars, or who sign the register against apartheid, or help fight famine.

We Canadians have a proud tradition internationally, and this government was elected to renew it - to modernize our foreign policy in the same way that we challenged and changed conventional thinking about deficits, and defence, and relations with the provinces, and the development of our regions. We have made real progress in all these reforms and, under the Prime Minister's leadership, no where more than in foreign policy.

In quick summary, we have helped shape the mandate of the new round of multilateral trade negotiations, particularly respecting agriculture; we have undertaken historic trade negotiations with our largest trading partner, the United States; we have carried out the first major review of defence policy in nearly two decades; we have led the internal reform of the United Nations, including persuading that cautious body to take the plunge and appoint Therese Paquette-Sevigny, a Canadian, as the first female Under-Secretary General in the United Nations' forty year history; the Prime Minister has regularly raised, at international Economic Summits, the inequity of third world debt and we have put our own aid program entirely on