

NATO

advanced than others. In all aspects, however, it has been our decision to return to fundamental principles; to make no assumptions about the validity of previously pursued policies.

It can, of course, be said that widespread studies were not needed in order to learn that the problems facing Canada in the foreign and defence areas are in broad dimension those that we have faced for some time—global and regional tensions, under-development, and economic disruptions. Nor to know that Canada's objectives have not varied much; we still seek a peaceful and secure world fortified by a general economic stability which will permit men and women everywhere to pursue the individual dignity which is their natural right. Fresh studies were needed nevertheless to review some of our traditional positions. They were needed because the breath-taking pace of change in this decade, whether measured in technological, demographic, or economic terms, has so altered the complexion and the scope of those problems, and so emphasized the desirability of those objectives, that we are in a very real sense in a new world.

[English]

What the government is seeking in the review, therefore, is something more than a catalogue of current problems, useful though that would be. We are attempting to learn whether Canada, by reassessing in a systematic fashion its own and the world situation, may play a more effective role in pursuing its objectives. We want to be sure that we are doing, so far as we are able, the right things in the right places. Canada's resources, both human and physical, are immense, but they are not limitless. We must establish priorities which will permit us to expend our energies in a fashion that will best further the values that we cherish.

We do not further those values by withdrawing from the world, nor will this government ever suggest that we should. But neither do we further those values effectively by needlessly fragmenting our efforts, by doing things that others can and should do better. Above all, we accomplish nothing by refusing to recognize that in the past two decades there have been changes in the world and in Canada which demand fresh policies and adjusted viewpoints.

In some respects, Mr. Speaker, it may be said that the foreign policy review is a clinical test of Canada's maturity. The policies that are being examined were formulated and

pursued over a period of time that can only be described as an outstanding chapter in the history of this country. Canada's contribution to the betterment of international relations in the post-war era is one of which all Canadians are justifiably proud. But the record of that period reveals that Canada's efforts were successful largely because of our ability to innovate, to meet new problems with new solutions, and to be aware that the world is a constantly changing place.

The man whose name is associated with brilliant statesmanship by millions of people around the globe, the Canadian who rightly earned for this country a proud place in the councils of the world, and was honoured with a Nobel Peace Prize, did not achieve his success by adhering stubbornly to old policies. Incidentally, Mr. Speaker, the Right Hon. Lester B. Pearson is today celebrating his 72nd birthday in Tokyo where he is still exercising a service for the benefit of the world community. Had Mr. Pearson not approached new problems with new solutions, we would not regard him now with the respect he so richly deserves as a servant of peace.

And so it is today. Canadians must be prepared to face the world of actuality, the world of 1969.

We begin with the realization that we in Canada are in a relatively happy and unusual position. Not since Confederation has there existed a viable threat to our territorial integrity. The good fortune of geography has removed Canadian territory from physical contact with wars elsewhere; the good fortune of history has given us land frontiers with only a single, friendly nation. But we must remember that while there may be no present threat to Canada's territorial integrity, we are not able to say that there is no present threat from without to Canada's physical security. Should a major world conflict break out it will not likely involve territorial aggrandizement at Canada's expense, but it could easily involve mass destruction within Canada.

● (3:10 p.m.)

In a world as interdependent as that of today, with instant world-wide communications systems, and pre-targeted nuclear armed rockets only minutes flying time distant from all major European and North American cities, Canada's security is dependent on a peaceful world. Our efforts to