

It is a great honour to address the Canadian Institute of International Affairs on the occasion of your Sixtieth Anniversary. I join with you in celebrating your long and distinguished past. The Prime Minister and Mr. Clark asked me to convey their very best wishes as well.

Over the years relations between the CIIA and the Department of External Affairs have been singularly productive. You've provided us with a wealth of ideas. You've even provided us with some of our best people. Escott Reid and John Holmes come immediately to mind. We've tried to reciprocate all this generosity whenever and however we could. For example, we were kind enough to let you have John Holmes back again.

For everyone, CIIA publications are indispensable to the study of Canadian foreign policy. For External in particular, the "International Journal" is a source of constructive criticism and fresh thinking. Reports like the one you issued this week, "The North and Canada's International Relations", give food for serious thought. Your other activities, conferences especially, also help shape Canadian foreign policy. This Conference will be no exception, I am sure.

At this Conference, we are looking ahead to the 21st Century. Let me first of all assure you that in the year 2000 Prime Minister Mulroney's government will be just as committed to involving you in the foreign policy-making process as we are now.

The fact is we do believe in participation. We believe that involving Parliament and the public, tapping their contributions, putting policy to the test of public scrutiny, makes for better policy. The role of the Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade has been strengthened out of all recognition. The new Standing Committee on Human Rights is now fully operational. Surely experience has also shown that any future full-scale foreign policy review should follow the example of the Special Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Commons and its cross-Canada hearings.

This audience will be aware just how much of a contribution Parliamentary Committees and the concerned public have been making to the government's policy of constructive internationalism. Take human rights for example. I dare say that we would not now be creating an International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development if it had not been for the Special Joint Committee. We studied their recommendation and agreed with it. The necessary legislation will soon be ready to table.