International Perspectives

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Foreign policy is making and doing. Prime Ministers engage in both. Sometimes it's fun; sometimes it isn't — especially if the rhetoric of the "making" is barely visible in the agony of the "doing." Two articles in this issue treat these themes as experienced by Pierre Elliot Trudeau. David Cox of Queen's University takes a look back at some recent noble utterances on the world scene by Mr. Trudeau, and wonders what went wrong. Journalist Michel Vastel observes some of what went wrong in his examination of the Prime Minister's dissatisfactions with summitry. Behind it all lies the early determination of the directions the country will take. That is what sets the limits within which any Prime Minister must think and utter his cosmic solutions. And this is a murky area where the mood and needs of the nation are divined by processes seldom unveiled. Political Scientist Cranford Pratt examines some of those sources of invited and uninvited influence, and finds the corporate sector doing very well.

Two other articles have Canadian themes, both of them paying attention to undernoted institutions: one, the performance of the world and of Canada at the second UN Disarmament Conference; the other, the International Development Research Centre. The latter is a Canadian organization of high birth, now well into its second President and thirteenth year. Student Grant Manuge's finding is one of a strong constitution not immune to the infirmities of age and isolation. William Epstein continues his disarmament vigil in a review of the dismal under-achievements of the recent UN conference.

Three more articles round out the issue. David Jones of Dalhousie University shares his revealing findings about the views and intentions of Soviet leaders in relation to nuclear war. Robert Bedeski of Carleton University sees in today's South Korea a nation on the move — and quickly — from developing to developed. And Thomas Land is excited about a new method of water desalination which involves some Canadian resources. Then there are the book reviews.

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