

But all of this can be summarized in one word: influence. Canada is one of the few countries of the world which, in a way, feels it has accomplished more in expanding its influence in the world than in building up its power.

I submit that the world we live in needs influence. It already has enough - too much - power. Do I need to list the areas where the guns of power have taken over from the words of influence? Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Lebanon, the Middle East more generally, Central America. Alternatively, is it not reassuring to note that within the endless power struggle between the two superpowers, the influence of reason is about to prevail on long- and short-range INF?

It may be less spectacular to exert influence than to impose one's power. Yet it is much more effective, particularly over the long haul. For instance, Our major effort at revitalizing the United Nations - from within - is clear evidence of our approach. We want the UN to regain its relevance as a forum for reducing regional tensions. We also want it to be more effective as a guide for economic renewal in less developed countries. We want to ensure that specialized agencies do their work rather than fight among themselves for power.

Our influence is also demonstrated in our efforts to promote human rights and social justice in the world. Canada has assumed a leadership role in harnessing the collective will of nations in fighting racial discrimination in South Africa. We have certainly not won the war against the scourge of apartheid. Yet, through our extraordinary network of influence through the Commonwealth, the countries of La Francophonie and even the Summit Seven, we hope that some day the winds of change will bring about the dismantling of state sponsored racism in South Africa. Meanwhile, we shall continue providing assistance and encouragement to the front line states.

I could go on and on with examples of Canadian influence throughout the world. Yet, I think that what is important is that Canada's role abroad is both distinctive and appreciated.