

ocean-floor. Canada has long supported the principle of universality of membership of the UN, in the belief that every nation has something to contribute.

I have touched briefly upon some of the things that Canada has been doing in the world and the reasons for some of the policies we have pursued in the past. I should now like to pose some questions about these policies and to suggest some directions which we might take in adapting them to changes in the world scene and in our own country.

As I mentioned earlier, one of the most dramatic changes that has occurred in the world scene in the past 25 years is the proliferation of middle powers. We live in a time of the dissolution of empires. The empires of the Western European powers are largely gone and only a few small remnants remain. The ideological empires seem also to be loosening. They are certainly not nearly so monolithic as they were 20 years ago. Moscow and Peking now vie for ideological leadership of the Communist world. Yugoslavia is Communist but non-aligned and Romania and Czechoslovakia are restless under the Soviet yoke.

The result of a situation in which there are vastly greater numbers of independent states, or states with a greater degree of independence, is that the pattern of political relations throughout the world is constantly shifting, unstable and unpredictable. It is immensely encouraging that so many peoples have acquired far more personal and national freedom than they ever had before, but this very freedom may lead initially to dangerous tensions or violent outbreaks. In various corners of the world, peoples who have been under the dominance of an imperial power are struggling to establish a new equilibrium. Such is the case in Vietnam, Nigeria and Czechoslovakia.

Another aspect of the world situation which has come increasingly to the fore in the past 25 years is the crisis of underdevelopment. The problem has been there for a long time. In its present form it has existed at least since the industrialized nations of the West began their take-off into relative affluence in the nineteenth century. But the disparity has become vastly more acute in our time and both we and the inhabitants of the underdeveloped countries are far more aware of the problem through the efficiency of world-wide communications. The poverty-burdened majority of the people of the earth are increasingly conscious that we of the rich nations are still outstripping them in economic progress as every year goes by.

As I see it, two of the most important foreign policy questions facing Canada today are what we do about the issues of peace and war in parts of the world with which we formerly hardly concerned ourselves, and what we do about the enormous disparity between rich and poor all over the world. We have long been closely concerned about events in Europe, and rightly so. We are an offshoot of European civilization; that is where the bulk of our population traces its origins, where we have very large economic interests and where the most immediate threat to our security lies. We cannot turn our backs on Europe but we are compelled to add new dimensions to our thinking about other parts of the world.