

Canada and the world Trading for jobs

Foreign trade supplies three out of every 10 Canadian jobs. So it's sensible for Ottawa to put the spotlight on economics in its new green paper on foreign policy. Canadian prosperity depends on relations with other countries. If we forget that, we can't frame a realistic foreign policy for the years ahead.

The green paper's purpose is to get Canadians thinking and talking about our connections with the rest of the world. The government hopes the exercise will lead to a policy aimed at building up Canada's influence in the world — and its prosperity and security at home.

Ottawa admits Canada has lost ground across the critical range of foreign policy. Our share of international sales has fallen from fourth to eighth place. The decline has been particularly sharp in manufactured goods, which provide the most jobs. At the same time, Canadian influence on world affairs has faded.

It's no coincidence that Canada lost prestige, power and prosperity during the years its government mismanaged the economy, alienated our trading partners and allies and systematically dismantled the respected reputation Canada built during and after World War Two.

The Mulroney government's green paper asks Canadians to take a pragmatic look at our place in the world so Ottawa

can shape a foreign policy that will win back lost influence, economic strength and jobs.

Inevitably, the ancient question of free trade with the United States bobs to the surface. So far, the appeal of wide-open access to the big American market hasn't been able to overcome Canadian fears of competing with big American companies. Even taking a selective, industry-by-industry tack, there are promises and perils, as seen in the protectionism practised on both sides of the border.

Canada still bears the bruises of Pierre Trudeau's frivolous adventures in foreign policy. Mr. Trudeau started his reign by looking, with brassy fanfare, for a special link with Europe to lessen our dependence on American trade. The Common Market rejected him. He succeeded only in offending the Americans. Brian Mulroney's cautious, green paper approach, is meant to avoid the foreign policy pratfalls of the Trudeau years.

The new foreign policy review starts by recognizing the realities — Canada's commitment to the North Atlantic alliance, our special connection with the United States and the all-important economic factor in our relations with the rest of the world.

At this stage, Canada doesn't know where it's going but it's pointed the right way.

Injecting new blood

At first glance, the Conservative government's \$25 million program to lure 400 senior

from the private sector. Morale should improve as middle-level



The new

The U.S. Air Force is looking for "wild and innovative ideas" to help it decide where it should be going in the 21st century. I can think of a single wild and innovative idea that has anything to do with the U.S. Air Force. Can you?

"In our military bureaucracy it's difficult to get new ideas."