

# TALKING TO OTTAWA:

## Canadians Help Shape Their Foreign Policy

On January 22, 2003, Minister of Foreign Affairs Bill Graham asked Canadians to help shape the direction, priorities and choices for Canada's foreign policy through A Dialogue on Foreign Policy. The range of public consultations included the following:

- Minister Graham's participation in 15 town hall meetings across Canada;
- the distribution of more than 12,000 copies of the booklet on the Dialogue paper;
- 19 expert round tables in different parts of the country;
- a Dialogue Web site, which provided up-to-date access to weekly summaries of contributions, video interviews with experts and results of the expert round tables;
- formal meetings with provincial and territorial governments;
- hearings by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade;
- reports from community discussions held in cities across Canada;
- the participation of Ministers Pierre Pettigrew (International Trade), Susan Whelan (International Cooperation), John McCallum (National Defence), David Anderson (Environment), and Secretary of State Jean Augustine (Multiculturalism) (Status of Women) in meetings on issues related to their portfolios; and
- the organization of the March 2003 National Forum for Youth on the theme *The Next Canada: The World We Want*.

Full details of the Dialogue on Foreign Policy process and its results can be found at:

[www.foreign-policy-dialogue.ca](http://www.foreign-policy-dialogue.ca) 🍁

## THE VIEW FROM THE TOP

Mark MacGuigan's posthumously published memoirs about his two and a half years as Secretary of State for External Affairs are a frank and affectionate look at the old Department of External Affairs from a 10<sup>th</sup> floor perspective. In clear and direct prose, Mr. MacGuigan combines anecdote and recollection with thoughtful reflection to explore the domestic and international constraints on ministerial policy making.

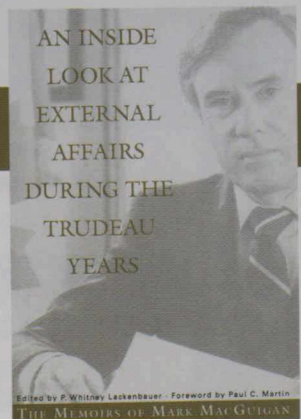
Mr. MacGuigan constantly examines his relationship with his prime minister, Pierre Trudeau. His critical portrait is refreshingly candid: while he acknowledges Trudeau's "overpowering intellect," he is quick to condemn his "facile" anti-Americanism and

abrasive political style. Mr. MacGuigan has a good eye for character, and his surprisingly sympathetic portrait of U.S. President Ronald Reagan and sharp sketches of other world leaders of the early 1980s are also well worth reading.

Like Mr. Trudeau, Mr. MacGuigan was a cool and self-reflective rationalist, who came to office in March 1980 convinced that a country's foreign policy ought to be dictated primarily by its national interest. Neither international law nor morality, he thought, provides much of a basis for a country's foreign policy. And in this short study, he sets out to explain how his diplomacy—in virtually every corner of the globe and across a host of issue

areas—served and advanced Canada's national interest.

Throughout this book of memoirs, there is much evidence of Mr. MacGuigan's close and warm relationship with the officers who served him. He was never a captive of his bureaucracy and, as such, he enjoyed challenging the carefully considered opinions of his officials and shaping policy according to his own views. As a parliamentarian and minister, he only sought for himself what he sought for all Canadians: "a world of creative freedom." 🍁



P. Whitney Lackenbauer (ed.), *An Inside Look at External Affairs during the Trudeau Years: The Memoirs of Mark MacGuigan*, (Calgary, University of Calgary Press, 2002), 208 pages, \$34.95

*A longer version of this review first appeared in Bout de Papier.*