

to provide one of the most generous and humane immigration and refugee policies in the world.

Canada is steadfast in its desire to safeguard the world's environment, and we are active participants in ensuring the success of the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development in Rio next June.

In my own brief period as Secretary of State for External Affairs, Canada has played a key role in major developments in the Soviet Union, the Baltic States, Yugoslavia, Haiti, and Cambodia.

As a strong proponent of international co-operation based on the rule of law, Canada has been unswerving in its support for the United Nations as a forum for discussion and negotiation, and as an instrument for world peace and security.

In fact, Canada invented both the art and the science of peacekeeping, and our acknowledged leadership in this field has led to even more numerous requests for our services from around the globe.

Canada has deservedly won the title of "honest broker" as evidenced by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's recent invitation to Canada to participate in the multilateral effort that will complement the next phase of the Middle East Peace process.

In short, the word "Canada" internationally has become synonymous with peace, justice, respect for human rights, and the rule of law.

For this reason, Canada's current constitutional discussions are not simply a private matter where 26 million Canadians once again try to sort out their rules for living together.

Canada's future is a matter of importance for the entire world; since the unique Canadian experience has provided not only an example, but in many ways has established the principles and standards for civilized conduct in democratic evolution.

In many ways Canada is an experiment in democracy -- sometimes rational, often passionate, never clear-cut.

And Canadians are becoming ever more complex -- and that is why I'm not surprised that this 20th Anniversary Biennial Conference has over 500 participants in over 90 sessions!

In fact, the way we are going as a country right now, I wouldn't be surprised to see close to 1000 participants two years from now -- Canadian Studies is truly a growth industry!