

Where do governments fit in this picture? I think an important feature of the Eighties is the growing pre-eminence of government-to-government relationships in international economic decision-making. For an increasing number of countries in the world, significant economic exchanges and co-operation are the bond for solid political relationships between the countries concerned. And the world of the Eighties will undoubtedly see an increase in these state-to-state relationships. Canada is compelled to examine very carefully how we will respond to this phenomenon and to direct a good deal more attention to systematically developing the kind of political partnerships which our development requires.

All of these factors — the uncertain world of the Eighties, the nature of decision-making in economic development, tougher competition for Canada abroad, the need for viable and strong political relationships — all of these factors convince me that we must pursue more concentrated bilateralism.

Canada has probably been more noted over the years for its multilateralism than for its bilateralism. We're among the most internationalist nations in the world, and universally recognized as such. We accept the rule of law. We're founding members of the United Nations and of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), of the Commonwealth and of La Francophonie, of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development and of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. We participate even now in peacekeeping operations. We help to formulate peace plans. We're leaders in development assistance and in disarmament negotiations. This is the great internationalist tradition of Louis St-Laurent, Mike Pearson, Paul Martin and, yes, Roland Michener. It is an imperishable part of our heritage, and I'm confident that it will always be zealously maintained by Canadians.

Two great initiatives

At the present time the Prime Minister and I are engaged in two great initiatives in this tradition: crisis management within the East-West framework, and the North-South dialogue.

Our attempts at crisis management through united action by the West have been manifested with respect to the Afghanistan, Iranian and Polish crises in the past year, and, we feel, with growing success.

The least successful of these attempts at crisis management, despite our best efforts, was the first, the Afghanistan crisis — at least, the first for our government; the Iranian was there before but we had more immediately to confront the Afghanistan crisis when we assumed office. There, as you will recall, the West was not really able to agree on united action. We did, of course, do many things in common and that's because we have a lot in common. We could hardly help to do many things in common, because we look at many things the same way. But we didn't really succeed in correlating our policies as we would have wished, especially with respect to the Olympic boycott.

We in Canada, and certainly we in the Canadian government, take great satisfaction from the fact that whereas other governments — notably those in Britain and Australia — were not able to persuade their Olympic committees to follow their
