

The Government's view is that, if its foreign policy is to be carried out effectively, the organization for doing so must be closely-knit, fully qualified and responsive to the changing demands that inevitably will be made on it. The steps taken towards the goal of integration will be systematically reviewed to ensure that they do continue to fulfil the emerging needs of the future.

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The Government has adopted the approach put forward in this general report because of a firm conviction that Canada must in future develop its external policies in a coherent way and in line with closely defined national objectives, as set by the Government. The same approach is reflected in the five sector papers which form an integral part of the presentation of foreign policy which the Government wishes to make to the Canadian people at the present time. They contain the more detailed discussion of policies being pursued and options faced by the Government in those sectors of its external policy.

The sector heads selected for report at this time—Europe, Latin America, the Pacific, International Development, and the United Nations—were chosen because they seemed particularly relevant to new issues being raised in the country. They embrace such questions as Canada's participation in NATO, membership in the Organization of American States, diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, the level of development assistance, problems of southern Africa, peacekeeping and arms control. These were neither the only sectors of policy which were considered important by the Government, nor indeed the only ones to be reviewed. They were areas which required examination in some depth, because they involved basic assumptions about Canadian foreign policy since the Second World War. The present report is sufficiently broad in scope to reveal the main contours of Canada's external policy as a whole and to suggest how and where it should be reshaped primarily to bring it into line with new forces and factors at work both at home and abroad.

These papers are concerned with substantive policy rather than methods. For the most part they do not deal with the details of bilateral relations, even those of the greatest importance (with the United States, Britain, France, the Soviet Union, for example). Those relations are clearly involved in many of the policy issues raised throughout the papers. The kind and degree of that involvement as regards Canada-United