



Statements and Speeches

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NEED FOR THE RENEWAL OF A DISCIPLINED AND COMPASSIONATE WORLD ORDER

Address by the Right Honourable Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Prime Minister, to the Canadian Institute of International Affairs, Ottawa, May 6, 1983

I am particularly grateful for the opportunity to speak with you this evening. The history and vitality of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs manifests a long-standing ethic of enlightened international concern and responsibility. Indeed, this ethic sustained the Institute and its members long before it was easy to demonstrate any very direct relationship between responsible internationalism and Canadian self-interest.

Tonight I wish to argue that even the narrowest of Canadian interests is now vested in and vitally dependent upon the political, economic and environment health and order of the globe. Despite the intensity of economic distress in Canada, the temptation to turn inward upon ourselves must be resisted. We cannot escape from the world; nor can we bring about a totally independent national recovery.

Though the budget has launched a broad program of measures we must take in Canada to assist ourselves, they will be for nought unless we also work with other countries to restore a compassionate and disciplined world order.

Some eight months ago, I addressed the opening plenary session of the boards of governors of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in Toronto. On that occasion, I spoke of the collaboration at Bretton Woods of men and women of humanity and vision, whose enterprise and imagination played such a fundamental part in rescuing the world from the chaos of depression and war. The institutions to which they gave birth — the Fund, the Bank and later the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade — reflected their perception that discipline and compassion were essential to a liberal world order. The succeeding decades of growth and development, of a scale and pace the world had never known, are a testimony to their vision. These institutions remain pillars of hope and progress today.

Of course, that is not the whole story of those bountiful decades. One thinks of other far-sighted acts which had their roots in the enlightened self-interest of nations. The Marshall Plan addressed the needs of a war-torn Europe, but also served to re-create markets for the vastly productive American economy. Out of the administration of the Marshall Plan in Europe grew the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. The European Economic Community was created. Within individual countries there emerged a growing confidence in the use of monetary and fiscal policies to sustain high employment. Investment in a wide range of industries responded to pent-up and new demands.

What went wrong? Many strains accumulated throughout the Seventies. The after-effects of rapid post-war growth, followed by food shortages, two Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries shocks and the wage-price process produced intractable inflation. Deep-seated expectations of real income in-
