

in the foreign policy community and the media. The issue really is the quality of debate that may take place in the committee and in the House of Commons. Perhaps your conference participants will have some sound political advice on this score.

### Parliament's Contribution

Partisanship aside, Parliament and parliamentarians in fact do contribute to the substance of Canadian policies and to their promotion abroad.

In addition to Question Period, the House of Commons and Senate contribute through their legislative work and special resolutions. Fifteen bills related directly to foreign affairs have been adopted in this Parliament covering a range from trade agreements to Canada's financial contribution to international development banks. The new Department of External Affairs was created by one of these bills. The current debate on the Canadian Institute for Peace and Security is a further illustration.

It is true that Parliamentary resolutions on foreign affairs issues are not an everyday occurrence. They do however have important functions. Traditionally they have been used to signify approval for Canada's international commitments -- whether in the form of treaties or particular courses of action. They also have been used to send a powerful diplomatic message from the Canadian people. The most striking recent example was the resolution condemning the Soviet destruction of KAL Flight 007 with ten Canadians on board.

Committee work is undoubtedly a major avenue for detailed parliamentary contribution to foreign policy. I believe that that contribution is currently taking place. One must be impressed with the important work that is taking place in the Parliamentary Committee. More could be done, but let us not denigrate the importance of the contribution currently being made. In this Parliament, SCEAND and its sub-committee, often with the able assistance of the Parliamentary Center for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, have reported on NORAD, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), relations with Latin America and the Caribbean, Canada's role in the OAS, the Armed Forces Reserves, and security and disarmament. That is in addition to work on various bills, the estimates, annual reports. The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations meanwhile published its third report on Canada-U.S. trade relations. It is now engaged in a study of Canada's relations with the Middle East and North Africa. In addition, a special Parliamentary Task Force on North-South relations made