

I recently began a week in Washington, with one of my quarterly meetings with George Shultz. He had just returned from Asia where, in one day, he had had breakfast in China, lunch in Korea, and dinner in Japan. That is the glamorous life of a Foreign Minister. I ended that week in my constituency in Yellowhead where, in one day, I had breakfast in Whitecourt, lunch in Swan Hills, dinner in Fort Assiniboine, then a meeting in Barrhead. That is the life of a Foreign Minister who sits in the Canadian House of Commons and intends to stay there.

The two worlds are not as far apart as they might seem. Twenty-six years ago the first long-term agreement with China brought a great boost to the grain economy of Western Canada. When the Korean Trade Minister recently visited Canada, plans were announced for Korea to increase its imports of Canadian canola seed from 11,000 tonnes per year to 15,000 per year.

Every day, political decisions in Paris, Washington, Moscow and other capitals affect the markets and the prices of Canadian farmers. Mikhael Gorbachev is an important man to Fort Assiniboine. The Common Agricultural Programme of the European community has done as much damage to the farmers of Alberta as the National Energy Programme did to our oil worker. Jimmy Gardiner made his mark travelling the back roads of Manitoba. To do his job, Charlie Mayer spent a week in March in the Soviet Union looking for trade opportunities to help maintain Soviet interest in our grain.

That which is true in agriculture also applies to every other area of Canadian involvement. The message is simple: in an interdependent world, international relations are part of the daily lives of all Canadians, and the government must regard foreign policy as an internal priority.

This has been our Government's message since it came to power. We have decided that Canada's foreign policy must express and unify the various elements of Canadian society.