

Statement

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SPEECH BY

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE JOE CLARK,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,

AT THE KIWANIS CLUB RED SHIELD APPEAL LUNCHEON

OTTAWA

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Secretary of State  
for  
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État  
aux  
Affaires extérieures

Canada

## Synopsis

--Canadians know we must move with the major global changes taking place and benefit from them by managing change rather than being its victim.

--Canada has a solid reputation as a country that uses its influence to create a safer, more humane and more prosperous world.

--This government has already accomplished several major objectives internationally--among them negotiating the Free Trade Agreement with the U.S.A. to strengthen our ability to compete globally, being instrumental in placing the Commonwealth in the vanguard of a fight against apartheid and being an early supporter of urgent international action to safeguard a threatened biosphere.

--Challenges facing us now include:

--Dramatic changes in the global economy. The Asia/Pacific region is moving toward the centre of the world economy, the countries of the European community will create a single economic community in 1992, and a new competitive climate is emerging, emphasizing technology, speculation and mobile capital.

--East/West relations are on the threshold of a new era of growing co-operation and trust.

--We face increasing threats to world security including poverty, frightening levels of debt that threaten social and political stability and a deteriorating environment.

--What can Canada do to meet these challenges?

--Economically, we are putting in place a strategy for Canada to compete successfully in the global economy of the nineties. We will consolidate our ties with the U.S.A. We will develop long term, sound economic relationships with Japan, Western Europe and the newly industrialized countries, especially those in Asia, balanced by cultural interchange and dialogue at all levels.

--In the area of security we will exploit new opportunities created by improved East/West relations. We want to co-operate with the Soviet Union on Arctic questions, on the environment and in strengthening peace globally. Later this year, the Prime Minister will visit the Soviet Union and this will do much to advance our agenda with the East.

--Among other initiatives to strengthen security, we will maintain a well-funded development assistance program, directed especially at the poorest. As a Security Council member, we will use our influence and resources to contribute to the resolution of regional conflicts in Asia and Africa. We will continue encouraging the international community to maintain pressure on South Africa to end apartheid and we will go on helping the victims of apartheid in that country.

--In all this we will be guided by pragmatism and realism and solid day-to-day work, rather than by dramatic gestures.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed a pleasure to be here today. The Salvation Army, in its ideals and the dedication of those who serve in it, has firmly established itself as a leading institution of Canadian society. Those who founded the Salvation Army in Canada would surely be enormously proud that the organization they founded 104 years ago is still reaching out so effectively to the disadvantaged and dispirited. I wish your campaign the greatest success.

I wanted to speak to you today about our place in the broader community - the world around us. In particular I wanted to map out for you some of the major changes taking place around us and how we will respond to them.

Canadians by tradition are an outward looking people. Canadian society derives its values, its sense of what constitutes good citizenship, from a national inheritance drawn from every corner of the globe. Our economy is one of the most open in the world. Good Canadian citizens are good international citizens because we want to be, and because we have to be.

Canadians are also a forward-looking people. We understand that the world around Canada is changing, and, these days, changing quickly. Canadians know we must move with global change and benefit from it. Everything we deem vital - our freedom and security, our economic competitiveness, our humanity and physical environment - depends on our ability to manage change rather than to be its victim.

That is the way we see ourselves, and that is how those outside our country see us. Canada has earned and retains an enormous respect abroad as an influential, and pragmatic country, one which uses its influence to create a safer, more humane and more prosperous world.

We are building on a very solid record. In our first mandate this Government set out to accomplish several major objectives internationally. First, we had to secure Canada's longterm competitiveness in world markets. We had to make sure we would have access to the investment and technology we require to remain a prosperous society. The Free Trade Agreement is the testament to our success in this area. It was an enormous and historic undertaking. It will not only give us more secure access to U.S. markets, but will strengthen us to compete globally.

Free Trade was also part of a bigger strategy to promote open global markets. In the past four years, Canada has been at the forefront in pursuit of the crucial Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations. We have pursued an aggressive trade promotion strategy, especially in the booming markets of the Asia/Pacific region and Europe.

Second, the government had to refurbish Canada's reputation as an ally and as an effective player on key international issues. We used our presence in East/West and arms control forums to press for a world with fewer weapons and greater trust. Vital bilateral partnerships were reinvigorated with the U.S.A., with France and with our other developed partners.

Multilaterally, we played a major role in getting La Francophonie up and running, and we were instrumental in placing the Commonwealth in the vanguard of a fight against apartheid. Canada also stayed with the UN and its specialized agencies during some dark hours, working for needed reform while others left in frustration. We took part in new peacekeeping operations, in Afghanistan and on the border between Iran and Iraq. We reinforced Canadian sovereignty in the Arctic and promoted peaceful circumpolar cooperation. And we were an early supporter of urgent international action to safeguard a threatened biosphere, through such concepts as sustainable development.

In approaching this agenda we made a point to involve the Canadian public in foreign policy. We wanted Canadians to tell us what they believed the real challenges facing our country to be and what we could do to meet those challenges. And, through the intermediary of a Special Parliamentary Committee which for a year travelled from coast to coast and received hundreds of submissions, they did.

What they told us was that they support a foreign policy that is activist, outward looking and humanitarian. Since then we have continued to draw in Canadians, to consult with them on trade and on human rights, to work with them on development assistance, to enlist their understanding and support for government policies. I intend to go right on doing so, because I'm convinced it's the best way to ensure our foreign policy remains consistent with Canadian values and interests.

If all this sounds a little manic, I can tell you that at times it was. Highly successful as they were, I am not sure we would quickly volunteer again to host three very major Summits in nine months!

But the world will not permit us to rest on our laurels, even if we felt inclined to do so. Fundamental changes are occurring around us and we have to deal with them, not just responsively but with anticipation.

Economically the landscape is changing dramatically. The booming Asia/Pacific region is fast moving toward the centre of the world economic stage as Japan becomes a financial as well as trade superpower, and as newly industrialized economies like Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong grow even stronger. Across the Atlantic countries of the European Community are preparing for the creation of a single, huge market-place of 320 million people by 1992. And with these developments a new competitive climate is emerging, emphasizing technology, specialization and mobile capital.

There have been striking developments in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. East/West relations have improved in the last few years. It is enough to say that we at last appear to be on the threshold of a new era in which the ideological antagonisms and profound insecurities of the past 40 years can be progressively replaced by cooperation and trust. We are seeing this daily; in the intensifying dialogue between leaders from West and East, in the new hope of solving regional conflicts, in the welcome renaissance at the United Nations. We also see it in our bilateral relations with the USSR and Eastern Europe, with the solution of virtually all human rights cases and the new interest among Canadian businessmen in trade with the East.

Improvements in world security come not a moment too soon. Today we face problems like endemic poverty, frightening levels of debt that threaten social and political stability, a deteriorating environment, health pandemics, demographic pressures and a refugee crisis, and a huge international trade in illegal drugs. Some of these problems have been around for a long time, others are more recent. All are now international in scope, and can only be met by purposeful corrective action. The diplomatic agenda of the last decade of this century will increasingly be dominated by these issues, which are going to test our imagination and skills to the limits.

Over the past year and especially since its re-election, the Government has had a good look at these prospects. We know what we have to do, and what we want to do.

We must put in place a sound, long term strategy so that from the base created by the Free Trade Agreement, Canada can compete successfully in the global economy of the 1990's. This means consolidating our economic ties with the U.S.A. It also means reaching out with energy and purpose to Japan and Western Europe, and to the newly industrialized countries, especially those in Asia. Our aim is to develop long term, sound economic relationships with these countries, balanced by cultural interchange and dialogue at all levels. As I told the BC Business Council last week, work is well underway on just such a strategy.

In the area of security Canada will exploit the new opportunities created by improved East/West relations. Canada is a neighbour of both superpowers and has a vital security stake in reducing tensions between them. We want to cooperate with the Soviet Union on Arctic questions, on the environment and in strengthening peace globally. Canadian businessmen are increasingly interested in commercial opportunities in the USSR and Eastern Europe. One out of ten Canadians has Russian or East European roots; human contacts and human rights will always be central to our relationship with these countries. Later this year the Prime Minister will visit the Soviet Union. This, more than anything, will help us to advance our agenda with the East.

Canada is a friend of the developing world and we will not let that friendship atrophy. We will maintain a well funded development assistance program second to none in quality, directed especially at the poorest. As a Security Council member and a peacekeeper we will use our influence and our resources to contribute to the resolution of regional conflicts that inflict so much suffering on parts of Asia and Africa. We will remain sensitive to the linkage between debt and democracy in Latin America. And we will continue supporting the struggle for human rights, democracy, and justice worldwide. In particular, we will go on encouraging the international community to maintain the pressure on South Africa until there is clear evidence of an end to repression and discrimination in that country. We will also go on helping victims of apartheid in South Africa.

In all of this we will be guided by pragmatism and realism. Dramatic unilateral gestures and public initiatives may sometimes be necessary, but are often less helpful than the solid day-to-day work that is done by our very capable team on the Security Council or by our representatives abroad who go the extra mile to help the persecuted and distressed in places like South Africa, Central America and the West Bank. Sharing with others techniques for holding free elections or ensuring a free press or trade unions does not grab headlines, but can be more useful in implanting what President Arias calls the culture of democracy than establishing rigid linkages or public admonishment.

Finally, we will be shaping strategies to meet the global changes of coming decades. We have already hosted several key meetings on the environment, including the Toronto Conference on the Changing Atmosphere last June. We will be urging others to ratify the Montreal Protocol on the Ozone Layer.

We have as our own national objective the complete elimination of controlled CFC's within the next ten years. We will work to ensure the Declaration of the Hague Summit on Global Warming gives impetus to developing a framework of legal instruments for protecting the atmosphere. An acid rain treaty is the top priority in our bilateral relationship with the USA, and the environment is an area where we can cooperate profitably with the Soviet Union.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, foreign policy inevitably has much to do with self-interest. In Canada it traditionally also has much to do with altruism. The world has come to expect a great deal of us, and Canadians expect the Government to deliver. In a period of very scarce resources we will not always be able to do as much as we would like, or others expect. But we will do the important things, the things that will strengthen our own society here at home and that make a difference to the kind of world we live in. To do anything less would be to betray our most basic traditions. I hope you and all Canadians will work with us.

Thank you.