

## Lasting Values in a Changing World

The very existence of Canada its languages, its cultures, its values, its tolerant spirit, its standard of behaviour — has represented an independent voice and has constituted something different, something special, for the larger world. By freely forging a united nation based on respect for diversity, Canadians bring a special sensitivity to other problems in the world.

> The Honourable Barbara McDougall, December 10, 1991

Since December 11, 1931, when the Statute of Westminster formally recognized Canada's independence in international relations, Canada has sought to protect and enhance its security and prosperity through social and economic justice and the rule of law in an atmosphere of moderation and tolerance. Over the past 60 years, our active commitment to peacemaking and peacekeeping, to Third-World assistance and development and to freedom and human rights has earned Canada respect throughout the world.

These values have helped Canada contribute substantively — make a real difference — to internatianal peace and progress. We have done this through the world's leading multilateral organizations: the United Nations, the Commonwealth, La Francophonie, the Organization of American States, the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation forum, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and the Group of Seven industrialized countries. Canada is the only country to be a member of all these organizations. Our membership has given us the opportunity not only to pursue our own interests in the world, but also to influence the course of world events. We will continue to pursue our security and prosperity by focusing on these organizations, as well as on key relationships with the United States, the European Community and Japan, as well as other important emerging players on the world stage.

# A World in Transition

We must turn our minds instead to the future, to find the right mix of policies to ensure stability and prosperity at home and, over time, to help create a more predictable, safer world.

> The Honourable Barbara McDougall, December 10, 1991

The world as we knew it for over 40 years no longer exists. The walls between East and West are crumbling under the pressure of profound political and economic change in Central and Eastern Europe, and particularly in the U.S.S.R. New economic superpowers, such as Germany and Japan, have emerged. Communications and transportation technologies are transforming the world's financial, trade and investment communities into a worldwide market place, making borders increasingly porous and individual countries more dependent on each other than ever before. Whot is emerging is o new world, which holds the promise of peoce and progress through internationol co-operation. At the some time, it is a world where old hatreds and ethnic hostility are on the rise, where there ore new threats to security (drug trafficking, terrorism and uncontrolled mass movements of people), ond where disease, illiteracy, poverty and environmentol problems are still to be solved.

All the communities of the world, including Conoda, ore experiencing the immense pressures of rapid ond often unpredictoble chonge. Manoging Canoda's interests effectively in such circumstonces requires vision, odoptobility ond leodership. Above all, it requires a definition of priorities and relionce on strong nationol volues to guide the decisions we moke ond the octions we toke.

# Priorities for Peace and Progress

Canada and Canadian foreign policy will become more focused and capable of acting more quickly in the Canadian national interest when unpredictable events occur.

> The Honourable Barbara McDougall, December 10, 1991

Conodo will continue to oct os on ogent for internotional peace ond progress. The following priorities will guide our foreign policy through the turbulent woters of the 1990s: strengthening co-operative security, sustoining a high stondord

, b 2400832 (E)

of living, and securing democracy and human values.

#### Strengthening Co-operative Security

The Gulf War, the conflict in Yugoslavia and recent developments in the U.S.S.R. show how fragile international peace and stability are and how suddenly they can give way to instability and confrontation. Security remains a vital priority for Canadian foreign policy, particularly the establishment of a more co-operative world order based on the rule of law. Specifically, Canada's foreign policy will seek to:

- improve controls on the spread of instruments of war and weapons of mass destruction;
- expand national and multinational capabilities to deal with non-military threats to security including environmental degradation, drug trafficking, terrorism and irregular migration;
- improve the United Nations' ability to maintain peace and security, and expand peacekeeping operations to include functions such as electoral supervision, democratic development and refugee protection; and
- offer official development assistance to reduce poverty, enhance human rights and, in turn, build stable political entities.

## Sustaining a High Standard of Living

Canada is a high-wage and high-cost country. We can sustain our high standard of living only if we continue to improve our productivity and the skills of our labour force, if we can offer an attractive environment for industries of the future, and if we secure access to major international markets for our exporters. As a medium-sized country with limited fiscal resources, it is vital that we operate in a stoble international economic system thot is bosed on rules. Specificolly, Conodo's economic and trode policy will try to:

- advance our interests through multilaterol, regional and biloterol trode negotiations and consultations;
- contribute to the development of more effective approaches to the internotional debt problem;
- encourage the integration of economies in transition (Central and Eastern Europe, including the U.S.S.R.) into the international trade and payments system, and the participation of newly industrialized economies in multilateral negatiotions and organizations;
- vigorously promote trode and investment in knowledge-bosed and service industries; ond
- maintain Conodo's competitiveness in areos where we are olreody successful.

Our quality of life can be sustoined only through effective national and internotionol measures to protect the environment. Therefore, Conado will seek to:

- establish an effective legal foundation for international environmental standards, to which all countries are committed;
- integrate environmental considerations in decision-making by internotional financial and other institutions; and
- help developing countries to corry out their internotionol environmentol obligations.

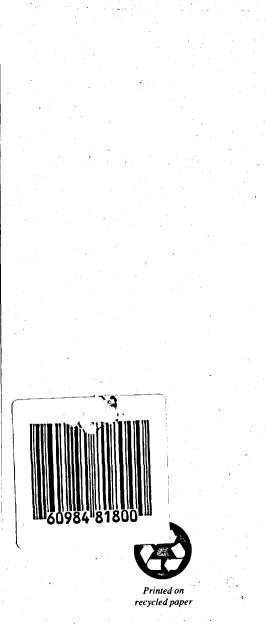
## Securing Democracy and Human Values

During the post few yeors there have been democrotic revolutions in Centrol and Eastern Europe, as well as solid democratic progress in Latin America and parts of Asia and Africa. The international movement toward democracy and greater respect for human values has never been greater. To help sustain that mamentum, Canada's foreign policy will focus on securing democracy and human values through initiatives designed to:

- encourage respect for human rights, the rule of law and fundamental democratic principles;
- encourage good governance and sound economic policies;
- maintain a strong commitment to reducing poverty and providing humanitarian assistance;
- improve international co-ordination of humanitarian assistance; and
- develop bilateral and multilateral arrangements far regulating international migration.

here is no map to the future, no instruction book to the new world order — we have only our values and the hardearned lessons of the past to go on.

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, September 29, 1991



0

Libr. Libr.

3 5

December 1991