

## Exercise 27

Read the text below. Find arguments 'for' and 'against' **diplomacy** to be open to public **criticism**. Do the tasks that follow.

Vocabulary notes to the text:

1. glare - severe look; scrutiny - close look
2. to veil - to cover up
3. eloquence - the art of speaking or writing beautifully
4. personal fascination - personal charm, attractiveness
5. reticence - silence, reserve
6. to take into confidence - to make people believe

### Diplomacy and Public Opinion

One of the main problems of modern international intercourse is the increasing responsibility of diplomacy to public opinion. *The question is how far has the public discussion of international affairs affected the legitimate functions of diplomacy: for the better or for the worse?* To the diplomat of the old school the answer seems clear. For him diplomacy was too delicate, too personal an art to survive the glare and confusion of publicity.

A master of the old diplomatic art of intrigue, of veiling his purpose under a cloud of eloquence, moreover, of the art of personal fascination was Metternich. Public opinion to him was only a dangerous force to be kept under control.

Distinct from him was George Canning, who may be called the great prototype of the new diplomacy. He saw clearly the immense force that would be added to his diplomatic action if he had behind him the force of public opinion.

The success of the policy of a foreign minister in a democratic state must ultimately rely on the support of public opinion, but the necessity for its support in the conduct of foreign affairs has its peculiar dangers. In the difficult game of diplomacy a certain reticence is always necessary. Times, even in Great Britain, the diplomatic correspondence laid before parliament is carefully edited. The **appeal** to public opinion may be used as a diplomatic weapon.

Bismarck, whose statesmanship was at least as cynical as **that of** Metternich, was a master of the art of taking the world **into his**

confidence when it suited him to do so; and the reptile press, hired to give seemingly independent support to his policy, was one of his most potent weapons. So far the only necessary consequence of the growth of the power of the public opinion on the art of diplomacy has been to extend the sphere of its application.

- a. Look back at the text and answer the italicized question put in the text.
- b. Discuss **the following** ideas with the class or with a partner; support or challenge **them**.

1. Diplomacy is too delicate, too personal an art to survive the glare and confusion of publicity.
2. The success of the policy of a foreign minister in a democratic state must ultimately rely on the support of public opinion.
3. In the difficult game of diplomacy a certain reticence is always necessary.

## Exercise 28

Complete the text with the words given below.

Advancing, representatives, unlikely, ambassadors (2), relations, public, promoting (2), politicians, management, **appears** \ **fluently** \ major, engaging (2), current, certain

The British Foreign Office in the 21st century.

One thing we can say for (1) \_\_\_\_\_ about the future Foreign Office is that it will not be immune to change. And it will always have its critics as well as admirers. In 2000 the Foreign Policy Center, a New Labour think-tank, proposed replacing traditional (2) \_\_\_\_\_ and diplomats, businessmen and foreign nationals by computers. The same year Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, voiced his desire to see the Foreign Office staffed by more (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of ethnic minorities, more women, and fewer products of Britain's elite (4) \_\_\_\_\_ schools.