

population in Canada is massively prepared to accept values which are different from its own. Therefore, whether you are a young or a middle-aged politician, you still have to deal with that basic reality of a society moving at a given pace. I repeat, it is not so much because of the bureaucracies, or the red tape, that we move slowly towards progress and greater justice. It is because the whole psychological framework of a given society is slow in changing. Admittedly it is changing much faster now than it could in previous days, with the mass media, with television and radio and instant communication between countries of the world, increased travelling, the jet age, it's possible now for people to see other societies and to, hopefully, understand the values on which they are built, and therefore the processes of change can be accelerated. But there are still difficulties; making people in Canada, for instance, accept that instead of increasing, shall we say, social benefits to our poor and our old people and our retired civil servants and our slum dwellers—because we have all this in Canada, Canada is not exempt from its own poverty—it's sometimes difficult to explain to them that we should use some of our tax money to help people who are even poorer than us in other countries. I have tried to repeat a phrase when talking about these things that it is our duty

to help first those who need help most. And this applies not only within our own country in establishing priorities between, as I say, the conflicting demands of the various parts of the population, but also in establishing our priorities in cooperating with other nations. We try to help first those who need help most, and that is why we always break our budgets when there is some particular disaster which calls for special assistance, because people who have been caught up in a particular disaster like the recent one in the Sunderbans obviously need help before those who are perhaps in misery but who are not in instant peril of death.

A.M: Then sir, this whole problem of adjustment to values sometimes gets confined within national boundaries. For instance, both in your country and ours we have had this tremendous problem of religious and linguistic minorities. You have had a tremendous crisis in your country recently and you had to apply rather stringent measures to control the situation. Surely there are long-term, constructive measures which apply to any country which has linguistic and religious minorities because it all arises from a sense of insecurity, surely, which again derives from certain genuine social or economic grievances. Now what in your view would be those long-term measures?

P.M: Well, we have begun applying several of them in Canada. The main difficulty to which you allude is the linguistic one, the fact that almost a third of the Canadian people are of

The Prime Minister with the Indian Airlines air crew that flew him from Agra to Varanasi and return.

