

with the countries of the region, as the Prime Minister demonstrated at the last APEC summit in Seattle in November 1993.

Canada's interests are worldwide, Mr. Speaker, and we will continue to have an active foreign policy that reflects our interests. Over the years, Canada has played an important role in the quest for peace. We are actively participating in the Middle East peace process, and we hold the gavel of the Refugee Working Group. Last month, we held the gavel at a meeting in Montebello to co-ordinate the work of all multilateral groups involved in the Middle East peace process. We are actively participating in South Africa's transition to democracy. Elsewhere in Africa, either bilaterally or as part of the Commonwealth and la Francophonie, we are actively working with governments and NGOs to contribute to the economic and democratic development of these countries.

We will continue to be active around the world. In these days of budget constraints, however, our scope of action can no longer be as broad. Changes in the world and in our own country are leading us to make agonizing choices. If we want to have a consistent and effective foreign policy, these choices absolutely must be guided by our desire to build regional and inter-regional mechanisms that will serve us well in the new century that is approaching.

Respecting the Values and Interests of Canadians

We are often confronted by opposing arguments on foreign policy. These arguments oversimplify our debate. Realists dismiss our values, our ethical and moral principles, and insist on a foreign policy that would serve only Canada's immediate economic and political interests. On the other hand, idealists would like to see a foreign policy aimed solely at strict promotion of human rights and our values, while ignoring Canada's sometimes fundamental other interests.

Mr. Speaker, it is far too easy and dangerous to simplify the debate in this manner. In so doing, we will only put blinkers on this country's foreign policy. We must recognize that such a cut-and-dried vision of the world is wrong. Of course, our economic interests are important. Of course, we want to promote human rights. But do we have the right to impose one at the expense of the other?

Insecurity, instability and war are detrimental to international trade. Human rights, democracy and good governance are the best defences of peace and security.

History shows us that economic development and respect for human rights sometimes go hand in hand. Increased prosperity often triggers social change. When we talk about economic prosperity,