

Prime Minister Mulroney returned to the idea at the Francophone summit in November 1991. At that meeting he stated:

Human rights is not an abstract legal concept, or a faddish political theory in industrialized nations. It is not a luxury, but an essential developmental tool. Canada considers it only logical that our development aid should be increasingly channelled toward countries that respect and work to develop human rights at home.²

In speaking to Canadian non-governmental organizations, Monique Landry, the Minister for External Relations and International Development outlined some of the issues raised by thinking about linking aid and human rights.

Is it realistic to see aid simply as a stick to punish wrong-doers, or as a carrot to be offered when human rights performance improves, and withdrawn when violations take place? Surely our goal, in the human rights area, is to encourage change in behaviour. The vital question is: what is the *most effective* way to achieve that goal in a specific situation? Our experience indicates that, if we take punitive action in isolation, we risk losing the influence that we might have had on human rights issues in that country...

If we find it necessary to cut off our aid, we must be careful not, in fact, to play into the hands of the repressive elements in a society...which would like nothing better than to see us go,...Should we not plan our human rights assistance carefully so that it helps to create the attitudes, institutions and NGOs that can become the cutting edge of *indigenous* progress in human rights?...can we summon up enough wisdom to take all these factors, and more, into our decision-making?³

In a speech at McGill University, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Barbara McDougall, said that the world was at a crossroads presented by an increasing commitment to democracy, pluralism and individual rights, and that it has also a time of potential conflict and oppression. According to McDougall, Canada should take the opportunity to use its diplomatic force to try to ensure that the potential for entrenching a wider acceptance of democracy and respect for human rights is realized. Mrs. McDougall gave an outline of the concepts being pursued by the government.

² Office of the Prime Minister. "Notes for an Address by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, Opening of the Chaillot Summit, Paris, France," 19 November 1991: 2.

³ Minister for External Relations and International Development. "Notes for remarks by: the Honourable Monique Landry Minister for External Relations and International Development, on the occasion of the annual consultations on human rights with Canadian non-governmental organizations," *Statement*, 21 January 1992: 6.