

BUILDING A MORE SECURE WORLD

Today war between major powers seems more remote than ever. The threats we face now are different—from non-state actors such as terrorists to new infectious diseases. Increasingly, they are beyond the control of any one country. Where states pose threats today—for example, those developing nuclear weapons—they often operate beyond the constraints of international law. We need new strategies to influence their behaviour. In addition, many countries today threaten us—and their own citizens—not because of their strength, but because of their fragility. Their collapse creates humanitarian tragedy and poses wider security threats, including to Canadians. These challenges, which increasingly transcend national boundaries, demand more than ever that governments work multilaterally to find durable solutions.

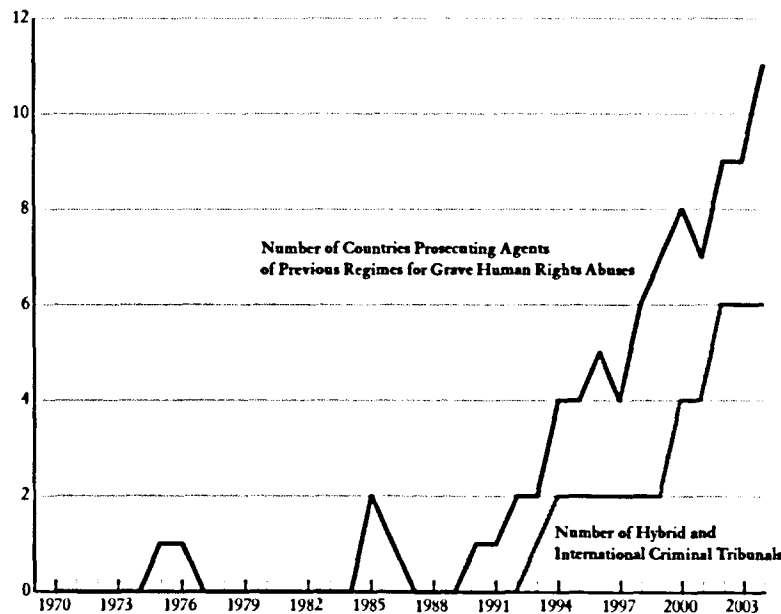
The Government is responding to these challenges on a number of fronts. *Securing an Open Society: Canada's National Security Policy* (NSP), released in 2004, puts forward a framework for action. The NSP focuses primarily on domestic and North American strategies, including intelligence, emergency planning and management, public health, transport and border security.

At the international level, Canada remains firmly committed to the United Nations as the cornerstone of the multilateral system, and to action under its auspices. However, our multilateral institutions are under strain. Canada's "Responsibilities Agenda" advocates new international commitment to the ideals that the UN Charter represents. As such, the Government welcomed the 2004 UN High Level Panel Report, *A More Secure World*, and the 2005 UN Secretary-General's report, *In Larger Freedom*, which together lay out an ambitious reform agenda, integrating security and development issues, and calling for institutional renewal.

Foreign Affairs' leadership on international security policy will contribute to the following Government priorities in particular:

- dealing with failed and fragile states;
- countering terrorism and organized crime;
- combatting the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD); and
- promoting human security.

**Attacking the Culture of Impunity:
The Growth of National and International Efforts
to Bring Human Rights Abusers to Justice, 1970-2004**



Source: Eric Nichol, Human Security Centre, University of British Columbia, 2005

FAILED AND FRAGILE STATES: THE NEW CHALLENGE

Among the emerging threats we face are those resulting from a large number of weak, ineffectively governed states. Our strategy to address the multiple challenges posed by failed and fragile states is focused, first and foremost, on prevention, through development strategies, support for human rights and democracy, diplomacy to prevent conflict, and contributions to build human security.

Recent conflicts and emergencies have taught us that we need to develop an integrated approach in responding to international crises when they occur, so that military operations and civilian assistance form part of a coherent operational plan. Military intervention has to be rapid, so as to stabilize the