

In the area of security Canada will exploit the new opportunities created by improved East/West relations. Canada is a neighbour of both superpowers and has a vital security stake in reducing tensions between them. We want to cooperate with the Soviet Union on Arctic questions, on the environment and in strengthening peace globally. Canadian businessmen are increasingly interested in commercial opportunities in the USSR and Eastern Europe. One out of ten Canadians has Russian or East European roots; human contacts and human rights will always be central to our relationship with these countries. Later this year the Prime Minister will visit the Soviet Union. This, more than anything, will help us to advance our agenda with the East.

Canada is a friend of the developing world and we will not let that friendship atrophy. We will maintain a well funded development assistance program second to none in quality, directed especially at the poorest. As a Security Council member and a peacekeeper we will use our influence and our resources to contribute to the resolution of regional conflicts that inflict so much suffering on parts of Asia and Africa. We will remain sensitive to the linkage between debt and democracy in Latin America. And we will continue supporting the struggle for human rights, democracy, and justice worldwide. In particular, we will go on encouraging the international community to maintain the pressure on South Africa until there is clear evidence of an end to repression and discrimination in that country. We will also go on helping victims of apartheid in South Africa.

In all of this we will be guided by pragmatism and realism. Dramatic unilateral gestures and public initiatives may sometimes be necessary, but are often less helpful than the solid day-to-day work that is done by our very capable team on the Security Council or by our representatives abroad who go the extra mile to help the persecuted and distressed in places like South Africa, Central America and the West Bank. Sharing with others techniques for holding free elections or ensuring a free press or trade unions does not grab headlines, but can be more useful in implanting what President Arias calls the culture of democracy than establishing rigid linkages or public admonishment.

Finally, we will be shaping strategies to meet the global changes of coming decades. We have already hosted several key meetings on the environment, including the Toronto Conference on the Changing Atmosphere last June. We will be urging others to ratify the Montreal Protocol on the Ozone Layer.