

Lesson 8. Dialogue is almost always preferable to silence or shouting. It would be naive to believe that dialogue can always produce results, or that those results will come easily and without compromise. But dialogue has a way of inducing compromise and understanding which is vastly preferable to the alternative of conflict or stand-off.

That is why we played a lead role at the Paris Conference on Cambodia in initiating a process which is now moving forward towards peace. That is why we have provided concrete support for face-to-face encounters and dialogue between blacks and whites in South Africa. That is why we have argued that it may be time for Cuba to return to the Organization of American States. That is why we invite our friends to consider a North-Pacific security dialogue involving Canada, the United States, the Soviet Union, Japan, China and the two Koreas. That is why we believe it is time to look at a new conversation between developed and developing countries, a conversation without dogma focused on specific issues and specific solutions.

Lesson 9. Dogma is dangerous. It is dangerous abroad as it is dangerous at home. Adolph Hitler proved that, as did Pol Pot and so many others. Saddam Hussein is proving it again.

But so too is a different sort of dogma - the dogma of the search for uniformity, of the presumption of shared values, of the separation of the world into 'them' and 'us'. To quote John Holmes again, "tidy-minded people are a menace in world affairs because the world is untidy."

Those lessons and those examples demonstrate an approach to international affairs which is, I believe, distinctly Canadian. It reflects our assets and our limits. It reflects our view of how problems are best resolved, based on our own national experience. And of course, it reflects the national interest of a country which cannot dictate and which must therefore discuss.

Those are some of the principles which govern the conduct of Canadian foreign policy. Of course, other countries have pursued similar approaches. I suggest that, in this new era, the principles and practices of Canadian foreign policy should become - and are indeed becoming - foreign policy guidelines for others.