

Criticism should be responsible. I don't mean that punches should be pulled - only that critical comment should take into account:

- that foreign affairs are complex in the extreme;
- that the positions of other countries must be considered;
- that the effect of criticism should be constructive; and
- that one man's view deserves as much attention as his neighbours - but no more. Intolerance has no greater justification in public criticism than it has in government policy.

After four years as Secretary of State for External Affairs, I am convinced that the interplay of government and individual in the conduct of Canadian foreign policy has been constructive and, on the whole, harmonious. Our national debate on foreign affairs has led to the evolution of policies which have served the country's interests and reflected a broad consensus in all parts of Canada. I hope that the dialogue between the individual and the government in all the ways I have described will continue in the future - our free and democratic society depends on this dialogue no less in foreign affairs than in domestic affairs.