

The first requirement is an attitude of unstinting support for the reform efforts under way in the USSR and Eastern Europe. Given the issues at stake, we cannot be fair-weather friends. We must understand that in a profound way, we are in this together - and we are in this for keeps.

There is a tendency now to hold up the leaders of Eastern Europe and the USSR and examine them as if they were laboratory specimens, to peer at them and engage in premature public eulogies or obituaries.

Television trivializes everything through repetition. It tends to treat as significant only that which is new. Andy Warhol said that everyone was a hero for 15 minutes. He had a point. Today we see pundits portraying Mr. Gorbachev as yesterday's man, a flash in the pan - a bad bet. This is nonsense.

Television, radio and newspapers have played a major role in the reform sweeping the East. It has given a new meaning to the term 'the communications revolution'. We cannot overestimate the immense importance of continued Western support.

A related principle is patience. The road ahead will be rocky. There will be reverses and setbacks. But given the dimensions of the change, it would be astonishing if a smooth ride were possible. There are bound to be developments which Canadians will judge as disappointing, or unsettling, or even offensive. Rather than rush to these judgments, we must give reform every chance to succeed.

The third principle is a clear recognition of what we in the West can do - and what we cannot. We in the West cannot solve the problems facing the East. Ultimately, it is the peoples and governments of these countries who will make democracy and the open market work. This is as true in Eastern Europe as it is in Canada.

But we do have an important role. We can offer help when it is sought and we can provide a stable context for the development of democracy and prosperity.

That co-operation can be of an emergency nature - as with the \$12 million in food aid Canada is giving to Poland or the \$30 million we have contributed to supporting the Polish currency as they move towards an open market.

That co-operation can also be of a longer term nature - helping Eastern European governments develop the expertise to run a democracy and a modern economy. Such things as management training and statistical assistance are important here. So too is gradual integration into the Western financial system, as demonstrated by the Prime Minister's proposal that the USSR be given observer status at the GATT, his advocacy of a meeting between Mr. Gorbachev and the Host of the Economic Summit, and Canada's intent to join the new European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.