

Medina: Do you think it should be fairly deep? Do you think some radical changes are needed or can it be fast-moving, fast-paced?

Wright: There needs to be a deep review outside DFAIT, but the Minister is absolutely right about the time frame. It is essential that it be integrated with the defence policy review, which we have also been promised, and with both human security and national security issues which may fall between those two stools and which need to be included.

Question: What is your government doing relating to the genocidal war in the Sudan and the role of the Canadian company there that is paying taxes that fill the purse of Canada, at the expense of the poor and dying people of southern Sudan? It is human security which is involved here. What is the fate of these people?

Graham: We have been wrestling with the Talisman Energy question for some time. My predecessor, Lloyd Axworthy, arranged for many missions to the Sudan. We collaborate a great deal with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development in trying to get peaceful conditions re-established in the Sudan. We recognize the complexity and the terrible nature of the problems there. We are also part of a special aid group to deal with it from that perspective. In terms of Talisman, we have a legal regime where we can sanction countries on the basis of multilateral institutional decisions and there is none in respect to the Sudan. I believe we should not construct what I call a "Talisman foreign policy", but rather foreign policy around general principles.

The Foreign Affairs Committee will be going to the Sudan as soon as they finish their present mandate to look at what we should be doing about corporations or Canadians' activities in zones of conflict. But we live in a democratic country, a free country and some people here feel that they have a right to do certain things outside of this country. We have not controlled what everybody in this room does when you go outside of this country. Before we put rules into place to do that, we have to think it through and look at it from a general context of zones of conflict and what Canadians can do and should not do in that area, rather than to react to one specific situation, however difficult and terrible it is.

I have a great deal of sympathy for your position, sir, and, believe me, we are looking at it. We have been struggling with it for a long time and will continue to do that. We are trying to make positive contributions in the Sudan. I have just been dealing with a couple of these issues recently.

Question: You can get aid if you do good governance and yet human security is worse in what we are now calling failed states or very fragile states. How do you reconcile this? How do we have a coherent approach?

Stuart: I agree it is a problem. I think that some of the discussions that are going on now in CIDA around strengthening aid effectiveness might lead us to focus more on the success stories than on problems. There are no easy answers because just distributing the money all over equally is not sensible either. It needs to be usefully addressed.