

Naturally, some of these initiatives are controversial. You don't often make progress without controversy. Sometimes the debate is limited and largely internal. For example, former Governments spoke more eloquently than they acted regarding the equality of women. When Brian Mulroney's Government took office, only two of our posts abroad were headed by women. Today women are heads of post for Canada in major missions like Argentina, Spain, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Copenhagen, Hong Kong and six other posts, and two of the five Deputy Ministers who report to me are Sylvia Ostry and Maggie Catley-Carlson. In fact, in a portfolio where the two other Ministers are Pat Carney and Monique Landry, I understand clearly how the universe will unfold - with a little help from determined leaders.

Some of the other controversies were more public. When Britain and the United States pulled out of UNESCO, Canada stayed, to reform from within. When Washington announced an embargo on Nicaragua, we immediately stated our own different policy. Former Canadian governments had worried about asserting Canada's sovereignty in our North; that territory is ours, and we have claimed it, and we are developing a means to assert our sovereignty in our North. Knowing the risks, we have brought Soviet POWs out of Afganistan; the Prime Minister has raised human rights questions directly with leaders of Korea, Zimbabwe, the Soviet Union; Mr. Mulroney and I will meet this Friday with Oliver Tambo of the African National Congress, knowing that some call them Communists but knowing also that the ANC will be part of any solution in southern Africa, and Canada must do everything we can to make the end to apartheid as peaceful as possible.

The world is too large to review country by country, issue by issue, and this nation is active almost everywhere. We have extended our peace keeping activities to the Sinai, and are in regular contact with Jewish and Arab leaders to see if there are ways we can help them move forward toward peace. We have established an active trading and diplomatic presence in Asia, opening new trade offices in Osaka, Shanghai, Bombay, and New Zealand, and Cabinet has just approved new initiatives in our relations with Europe. In the last