Prime Minister: Speech on the Occasion of the Centennial Anniversary Convocation, Stanford University, September 29, 1991

....Canada would like to see the UN become still more effective, more of an actor in international affairs as well as a forum...we also favour re-thinking the limits of national sovereignty in a world where problems respect no borders....We must recognize that there are certain fundamental rights that all people possess—and that, sometimes, the international community must act to defend them.

SSEA: Statement on the Situation in Haiti to the United Nations General Assembly, New York, October 11, 1991

.... Canada believes that the promotion of democracy, security and human rights requires more than just words. Words cannot turn famine into bounty, discrimination into equality, repression into freedom or brutality into compassion. They mean little if we fail to give ourselves the tools for effective action or if we succumb to the temptation of unilateralism.

Prime Minister: Speech to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, Harare, October 16, 1991

-In Canada's judgement....nothing in international relations is more important than respect for individual freedoms and human rights. For Canada, the future course is clear: we shall be increasingly channelling our development assistance to those countires that show respect for fundamental rights and individual freedoms of their people. Canada will not subsidize repression and the stifling of democracy.
-Good governance does not mean the imposition of foreign styles and systems of government. The fundamental principles of democracy and pluralism are universal but their application translates into radically different political structures, based on national traditions, needs and habits of thought. What is important is that the fundamental principles of an open society be respected.
- The principle of national sovereignty is progressively being conditioned by the principles of human rights.

SSEA: Speech to the Conference Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Statute of Westminster, Toronto, December 10, 1991

-Let there be no mistake. Canada will have no qualms in refusing to support abusive, corrupt and aggressive regimes that use their power to suppress their own citizens.
-While respect for human rights and a commitment to democratic principles and institutions are key elements of what I call good governance, the concept itself is much broader. Good governance also includes a sufficient priority given to basic social programs, defence spending that is not excessive, and the pursuit of sensible market-based economies.