

Who can stop the international drug trade without contemplating concerted action by suppliers and users alike?

And who can see an end to regional conflicts, such as in the Persian Gulf, without co-operation and understanding within those regions and outside?

On all these issues, national action is both more necessary than ever and more futile unless pursued in partnership with others. The challenge is clear. We either work together and succeed or we work separately and fail. It is the role of foreign policy to meet that challenge -- on so many issues in so many places -- not just to keep peace, but to build order.

Some Canadians see foreign policy as a luxury; a set of activities to be pursued in times of plenty and discarded when times are tough. Other Canadians see foreign policy as misplaced idealism, as the pursuit of values abroad which we have no business advancing and which others will not accept. Those perspectives are dangerous, short-sighted and wrong. When times are tough an effective foreign policy is more necessary, not less. And if we do not choose to advance our values abroad, other values will take over and Canadians will be forced to live with an order we do not like, an order which does not meet our needs. Or we will be forced to live with no order at all.

Foreign policy today is about finding fault lines. It is about finding them, facing them and fixing them.

It is about the fault line of development. Too many people see development assistance as something which soothes the conscience, as charity, as a sort of contribution to a global soup kitchen. And certainly development assistance has been a way for Canadians to say they care, to let others share in our luck.

That is why thousands of Canadians donated time and money to the victims of drought and famine in Ethiopia. That is why for decades Canadian children have collected for UNICEF at Halloween and Canadian doctors went to Mexico City after that city's earthquake. That is why Canadians have sent missionaries to China, food to Africa, and blankets and blood to Armenia.

That is one reason for ODA. But underdevelopment is a threat to Canadian security and prosperity. It is a threat to international order. It is a fault line which must be fixed.