

I believe a broad and active ODA strategy is as integral to the foreign policy of Canada as it is integral to the compassion which infuses the Canadian character. Of course, ODA has had to bear its share of the cuts required over the past two years as part of the government's deficit reduction strategy. But I have always fought to keep those reductions to a level which do not harm the economic and security interests of Canada.

The concept behind ODA is straightforward. It flows from compassion. As Canadians, we get great joy for being able to immunize 10 million children a year around the world. As Canadians, we derive great satisfaction from Nelson Mandela telling Canada that our concrete support means so much to the search for a democratic South Africa. And as Canadians, we are pleased to be able to provide ballot boxes, policemen and observers to Namibia, whose historic independence a few weeks ago has brought democracy and the free market to the last colony in Africa.

But the concept of ODA also flows from common sense. We want these countries to buy our wares. We want them to respect our concerns. We want them to develop in a way which preserves the global environment. And we want them to live at peace with each other and with us. That is what ODA is all about.