

Notwithstanding the proposed increase in aid in the US, their military budget is 35 times higher than their aid budget. There are two important points. First, in the four year review of their foreign and defence policies -- which was started by President Clinton and not by Bush -- they elaborate a policy of "full spectrum dominance". They are doing what they said they would do. They are being honest and loyal to themselves. "Full spectrum dominance" does not mean multilateralism. Second, they have a policy of "the enemy of my enemy is my friend". We have seen this approach with the Jihad and in what the US has done in Afghanistan. They continue to support dictators because they have suddenly become enemies of the Jihad. They have done this in Central Asia, in the Middle East and elsewhere. We have to confront this, while at the same time continuing our efforts in Burundi, the Congo, the Sudan and elsewhere.

Medina: Mr. Minister, do you have any comments before accepting questions from the floor?

Graham: We know the point about prevention is true. We have seen this in Canada where better investments in social conditions and housing could have reduced criminality, drugs and poverty. We always seem to look at the way to correct a problem, rather than its cause. The international world has done the same, but we are learning lessons. With the help of the NGO community and others we have been pushing forward. For example, the International Criminal Court is an important development in the area of the human security agenda. We need to support the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS) report that has come out on state sovereignty. I am going to convene a group of global parliamentarians to try and discuss how to do this. The debate is the same debate we had in Canada about Kosovo and whether it was appropriate to intervene... From the aid perspective, the Prime Minister has stated that we are going to increase our aid by eight per cent per annum now. So we are on the road back. We need to work together to see how we can refine our policies and what new policies need to be developed. Regarding the foreign policy review, we want to look at how the world has changed and how we can take some specific actions within that new context.

Questions from the audience

Question: What is going to be the scope and depth of the international policy review? Is it going to be an in-house fine-tuning or is it going to be a widely consultative approach? Is it going to go into depth? How broad are the options likely to be? To what extent is it going to be integrated with the defence review, which we have also been promised?

Graham: I am not in a position to provide specific details before I get Cabinet authorization. But generally, this review is going to be within certain time limits. We cannot spend several years doing it. I think there are some needs and changed conditions that we have to look at, for example, what we have discussed today about the Islamic world, but also the Americas, and a host of specific issues. There will be consultations with Canadians, but within a fairly tight time frame. For example, there may be papers and ideas on the Internet for consultation with the NGO communities over the summer, with a broader consultation process in the fall. However, it will not be as elaborate as the process for the last policy review, due to the need to finalize the report sooner rather than later.