

As developments in the region occur, I will continue to express Canada's concerns, whether this be in support of peace initiatives in the Arab-Israeli dispute, on some aspect of the Iran-Iraq war or indeed respecting other issues of concern to Canadians. It is important for Canada's voice to be heard on these fundamental issues. With respect to Canadian policy toward Arab-Israeli issues, I have stressed both to Mr. Shamir and to Arab Foreign Ministers I met in New York in September that there would be continuity in our basic approach and policy.

While our commitment to certain values is unshakeable, we should not remain static in the face of rapidly evolving events in the region. Continuity does not mean stagnation and our positions are, in a sense, always under review.

Furthermore, you will be aware that this government has announced it will undertake a thorough review of Canadian foreign policy and that a Green Paper on foreign policy will soon be released that I expect will set the tone for this much needed review. I wish to assure you, however, as I have stressed elsewhere, that certain fundamental aspects of Canadian policy, including support for Israel's security and well-being, are not subject to change.

However, the world is rapidly changing and I have found that Canadians are anxious to express their views on a redefinition of our place and role in the world. Today more Canadians are interested in foreign policy and are aware of the impact it can have on their daily lives, partly perhaps because the world economy and the nuclear threat force their interest. But I believe that there are also reasons for this that reflect our growth as a country, our renewed economic and cultural self-confidence.

In this respect I have been most pleasantly surprised, by the tremendous and generous response of Canadians to the famine in Africa. This response is a testimony to the interest of ordinary Canadians in their world, their generous spirit and their desire to grasp opportunities to make contributions to resolve problems which concern them. But much more remains to be done.

Jewish Canadians, like others, have contributed fully to this phenomenal response. Naturally, there has been a particular concern, in your community, about the fate of the Ethiopian Jews, who face the threat of both famine and deprivation. We recognize that Ethiopian Jews have a strong preference for resettlement in Israel and that Israel has already done much to receive them. The delicacy of this predicament, however, is aggravated by the danger that publicity makes action more difficult.