

The cost to Canada of emergency assistance, peacekeeping and refugee care and processing in war zones far outweighs the cost of building secure and stable societies through long-term development. In recent years it has become evident that we cannot afford not to promote international peace and security.

I would also like to point out why I believe attempts to achieve coherency in foreign policy are important and why Africa most easily illustrates that reality. Aid or development assistance alone, in whatever volume, is insufficient. If current relief dollars, emergency food aid dollars for example, were all converted to "development" dollars to address basic human needs for health, education and income generation, the problems of Africa would still not disappear. Dollars spent by Canada for development should therefore complement policies and programs of recipient country governments with the same end in mind -- sustainable development.

Good governance, human rights, adherence to democratic principles, economic transparency, and acceptable accountability standards are requisite. We cannot afford to squander too many development assistance dollars in countries that do not respect the principles and goals of our initiatives. For that purpose, Canada has already started to relate our assistance to such principles as respect for human rights and competent economic management. This will surely be examined as a part of the foreign policy review.

This is obviously an approach of utmost importance, yet even a policy of providing development dollars to countries practising good governance policies will not alone achieve sustainable development in those countries. Economic opportunity must also be possible. For many African countries, debt burdens threaten to prevent the emergence of a viable economy. There is an additional need in developing countries for policies to encourage foreign investment, and for international policies that permit free and fair trade to occur with poorer nations. Political will on all sides to bring about necessary reform is paramount. I am sure our foreign policy review process will assist the Canadian government in developing proactive, effective methods to achieve this goal.

Africa is going through a period of extensive change. The populations of many African nations are signalling their determination to rid themselves of the recurring problems of corruption and abuse of power that have been associated with their governments. The people of Africa have illustrated their desire to live under governments that are capable of responding to the basic needs of their societies: health, education, peace, a sustainable environment and economic stability.