

perception that American foreign policy is against Islam. This is an issue that is linked to American policy toward Palestine and Israel. The terrorists say that all diplomatic efforts have failed so what else can they do except to keep on sacrificing themselves as a way of keeping momentum going to show to the world that this is no small matter. As long as the world cannot solve this matter, I think the implications are very complex, because it is assumed that the problem of Palestine is a central issue for Islam in the world today. What kind of role can Canada – as a middle power – play in dealing with this problem?

- A: I am not going to attempt to give an analysis of the root causes of terrorism in Indonesia, but there are two aspects in response to what you said. The foreign policy statements, augmented by the nature of the media, which is to sensationalize and to simplify issues, really means that as academics or as others who are trying to counter this simplification of issues, we have a huge task ahead of us. I agree with you it has been a problem to conflate what happens in the Middle East with terrorism and with Islam. This is why I agree with you and why I call essentially for trying to educate through various means the necessity to think of these things as distinct - national liberation movements, compared to terrorists who for one reason or another decide to set off bombs in response to what's happening in Palestine - but those are distinct from national liberation movements. They don't have anything to do with Islam. I think it's important to keep stressing that point. I agree with you. The other issue I want to say though, the optimistic one, is that it does not appear that this kind of activity is gaining support in Indonesia. That's key. Extremism will always exist. The issue is whether or not it will grow in importance. The good news is that in Indonesia that certainly is not the case. That means the root causes are at least under control to some extent.
- Q: I have read how SBY was the one who favored opening up talks with the Free Aceh Movement. Instead of using a military solution, while everybody else is insisting on the military solution, do you think his election to the presidency opens up the possibility of a negotiated settlement to the conflict? Do you think he will win over all this opposition and have his way regarding Aceh?
- A: This is difficult, but we can speculate. Where there is some optimism, as a former general, SBY may be able to move away