

The first is that one of the goals of international development must be the promotion of genuine independence and stability in the Third World. In other words, we are opting for a pluralistic world in which all nations can pursue the objectives of independence and self-determination, and can, if they wish, choose non-alignment. Consistent with this, we want to immunize the Third World from East/West confrontation.

Our second principle is that no power should attempt to impose forms of government or economic systems on Third World countries. This recognizes the fact that the social, economic and cultural circumstances which prevail in Third World countries differ from ours, and that imposed systems may be not only offensive, but may be patently the wrong solutions to the problems they face. This does not mean that we will not seek to explain to those countries why we believe as deeply as we do in free and representative institutions. But even in this, the most convincing argument must surely be the degree to which we meet success in achieving our own goals as a society.

Our third principle is that governments of all nations must vigilantly observe their fundamental obligations to their own people. The protection of human rights is a legitimate international concern and the world cannot close its eyes to gross violations of them. But even here, I believe effectiveness must prevail over noisy recriminations. The important thing is that we succeed in changing the minds of offending governments — not in making hollow gestures that seldom change minds and almost certainly never change offensive practices.

The fourth principle is that Canada will avoid rewarding Third World countries which wantonly interfere in the affairs of other nations. Countries of the developing world face formidable challenges in building better conditions for their people — challenges which preclude the squandering of valuable resources on imperialistic adventures. It is for this reason that we have withdrawn our aid programs from countries like Vietnam and Cuba.

We believe these four principles must be adhered to if the objectives of the North/South dialogue are to be achieved. It is difficult to see, for example, how open and dynamic trading relationships between the developing countries and the countries of the Third World can be established if they face persistent pressures to align themselves with one of the two superpowers. Likewise, the effective use of development assistance will be impeded if these resources are earmarked for armaments to be used in the cause of a superpower.

Some question the wisdom of this course. They believe that through imposition of ideologies, one side or the other will gain a strategic advantage. This concern is rooted in historical experiences during the Fifties and Sixties — the difficult years of decolonization in large parts of the world — when we witnessed the courtship by the Soviet Union of many of these countries, fuelled in part by their own suspicions of their former colonial masters in the West. But today we see little homogeneous adherence to a single ideology in the Third World. Political forms and institutions vary greatly, determined in part by cultural factors which transcend the rigid tenets of Soviet ideology. In retrospect, we know that the ideological promotion of decoloniza-

Adherence to principles