

have been taking the lead toward achieving universal accession to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and its indefinite extension at the NPT Extension Conference in 1995. In parallel, we will continue to encourage the nuclear weapons states to conclude a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

Other international developments also pose the threat of further international instability. The combination of mass poverty and overpopulation in parts of the developing world can only add to the current migration pressures. The problem will get worse if the demographic trends of the developing world continue. With 95 percent of the world population growth taking place in these countries at an annual rate of 2.1 percent, the number of asylum seekers arriving in Western countries, which already increased nearly tenfold in the last decade (from 90 000 to 850 000 in 1992), could reach 50 million in the next 10 or 20 years!

In Canada, I believe that we have established a standard for other nations to follow in this area. But the quantum jump in the size of this problem will require continued international vigilance and creativity, if we are to avoid major problems further down the road.

We must also deal with the environmental consequences of the growth in world population. The protection of the ecosystem is a universal problem that was addressed in considerable depth at Rio de Janeiro. Canada played a constructive role in consensus-building at this important meeting and pressed for the adoption of an Earth Charter. We must now continue in our resolve to protect the physical nature of our environment.

These problems are particularly acute in Africa, the continent I just left. I fully agree with my colleague, the Honourable Monique Vézina, who said in her statement to this Committee on April 21, that "Canada will not abandon the most disadvantaged continent, in order to benefit the countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union." Despite a reduction in the overall budget of the international assistance envelope, Africa will still receive 45 percent of our bilateral assistance. Again, we are doing our share and more: we are still in second place among the donor countries of the G-7 in terms of ODA/GNP ratio.

I would argue that in the last three or four years, we have learned to spend our money more wisely. In focussing our development assistance on promoting respect for human rights, the strengthening of democratic institutions and values, and the establishment of responsible and responsive governments and administrative infrastructures, we are addressing the root causes of present and future instabilities. This approach may be less visible, less glamorous, but I believe that it is the most critical for building long-term stability.