

including the Commonwealth and La Francophonie, have key roles to play. In what ways can these organizations, and Canada as a member, help to build an international consensus on difficult issues?

Regional Conflicts

In deciding how we should respond to particular Third World conflicts, it is necessary to determine how Canadian interests are affected by them (whether fundamentally or marginally), what means we have at our disposal and how much our responsibility to the international system requires.. Not everything can constitute a priority demand on our resources.

Central America and the Caribbean have been the troubled regions closest to home. It is generally agreed that the sources of unrest there are primarily socio-economic. Are our aid programs in Central America an adequate Canadian contribution to stability? Do Canadian political and security interests require additional involvement? Would a more active Canadian security presence in the Caribbean region have a stabilizing influence and help to diminish superpower rivalry in this region?

Canadians have long debated whether to join the Organization of American States (OAS), and have put forward strong arguments for and against. Where do Canadians stand today on this issue?

Over the years, we have tried to maintain a careful balance in our relations between Israel and its Arab neighbours. Are Canadians satisfied that the balance is right?

How can Canada and other countries forward change in South Africa while avoiding isolating that country and making communication and peaceful change more difficult? Is foreign investment part of the problem or part of the solution?

Summing Up

The messages are clear. Canadian economic interests require us to be competitive, and we must export to prosper. Security interests demand that Canada play its part in Western defence and in arms control and disarmament. Our values dictate that we help the poor, the

hungry and the politically abused. At the same time there are practical limits, including financial limits, to Canada's ability to act. A national consensus on policy priorities may be required if Canada is to prove equal to the challenges that lie before us.

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