

But there are no firm and fixed rules for raising and discussing what are essentially the domestic concerns of other states; some countries simply refuse categorically to permit any exchange of views. Canadians are justifiably indignant at flagrant abuses of the fundamental rights of the individual in Uganda, South Africa, and in many other countries in Eastern Europe, Latin America and elsewhere. Moral indignation alone, however, will not establish universal standards of human rights, or ensure the creation of machinery to enforce such rights.

My problem, as SSEA, goes one step further: it is to find, amid the differing interests, attitudes and traditions of other states, a way of expressing Canadian concerns, of alleviating conditions we find deplorable, and of solving the largely anonymous individual cases in which the Canadian interest is strong and persistent.

When we approach the issue of raising human-rights questions with other countries, we generally consider two criteria in arriving at a course of action: the first is what action will likely be effective; the second is whether an action would be *appropriate*. Whether our action, if taken, will be effective has to be subject to balanced and careful examination. When we have cordial relations with states, for example, low-key, private discussions are demonstrably more likely to resolve outstanding individual difficulties, and, in turn, create the atmosphere for the additional reconciliation of problems of concern to Canadians. When relations are poor, and progress on human-rights issues is negligible, it may be necessary to make our case public, even though public pressure can as often contribute to a hardening of attitudes as it may to a meeting of minds.

The difference between "public" and "private" diplomacy is not always appreciated by Canadians. Public support for dissidents in the Soviet Union may, for example, be of help to their cause, for it provides the very publicity that in turn prevents Soviet authorities from implementing more repressive measures. Just last month, for instance, it was decided to convey to the Government of the Soviet Union the disappointment and deep concern of the Canadian people at the arrest of certain prominent Soviet citizens who had been speaking out on the question of human rights. Similarly, I spoke in the House of Commons just the other day on the human-rights climate in Uganda. Our concerns in this area were made quite clear to the Government of Uganda, and at the recently-concluded session of the UN Commission on Human Rights. With respect to Uganda, let me say this. There is no question that the Ugandan Government is engaged in the systematic killing of those who are thought to be in opposition to it. Yet the international