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International terrorism continues. In a few countries, power has simply fractured into anarchy, while in others, the authority of government is increasingly challenged.

Although the demise of Cold War rivalry has reduced the likelihood of global nuclear war, looser control over fissile weapons material in the former Soviet world and a wider diffusion of weapons technology raises the spectre of destabilizing threats from new forces set loose by local conflicts and international criminality.

***Security means freedom from a wide array of challenges.***

- The new international context also imposes “non-traditional” threats, in particular, threats that transcend political borders and affect whole regions or even the globe. International crime and disease, global warming and mass involuntary migration are examples of the more negative aspects of greater global integration.
- We now recognize the danger posed to this and future generations by environmental degradation, social inequity, lack of economic opportunity and overpopulation. More and more, the concept of security is focussing on the economic, social and political needs of the individual. In tackling these issues, we will require clarity in our thinking about the sources of each threat and problem, and about which combination of instruments - including development cooperation, trade liberalization and, if needs be, preventive diplomacy and peacemaking - is best able to address them.

***Globalization has dramatic economic effects.***

- All societies are having to respond to the pressures of economic globalization: the increasing capacity of industries to distribute production, the power of financial markets to influence the value of currencies without regard to political geography, and the enormous volume of investment capital which flows daily across borders at the push of a button. International capital markets have the strength to affect the independent capacity of governments to guide economies. Globalization means that economies respond less to political control than before. Societies look to their governments to foster economies that succeed in the global system but produce benefits locally.

***Globalization also affects culture.***

- Globalization also has a powerful impact on culture. Carried on the information highway and tied by growing transborder links among groups and individuals, culture now has assumed a global character.