

volume of assistance and changes in how we give assistance and in who receives it.

Wherever possible, we consult other governments and international agencies about looming problems and new opportunities, and seek to take co-ordinated action. But action by Canada has not been contingent on achieving an international consensus in the past, and it will not be in the future.

Most important, we look to Canadians for the special knowledge and perspectives they can bring to the debate -- through contacts, correspondence, the media and Parliament. International data need to be viewed from a Canadian perspective.

The insights and knowledge that business, labour, voluntary groups and private organizations can provide deepen our understanding of a particular situation and of the choices available.

Suspension or Termination of Bilateral Assistance

Sometimes, there are grave situations where governments act arbitrarily, threaten or attack their neighbours, misuse their country's resources, or abuse their citizens' fundamental rights. Such circumstances call for explicit and far-reaching measures, such as the suspension or termination of our bilateral assistance. We have done that on a number of occasions in the past, and we shall not hesitate to do the same if justified in the future.

The Use of Sanctions

In even more extreme situations, there is the further option of applying political and economic sanctions. The measures introduced vis-à-vis South Africa -- or, more recently, Iraq and Haiti -- illustrate the point.

Such measures are rightly reserved for extreme cases. They must be designed to minimize the cost to Canada (and private Canadian citizens) and maximize the chances of success.

The objective is not to ruin a country or penalize its peoples, but rather to bring about a change in the conduct of its government.

Even when sanctions are in place, we may have reason to fund projects designed directly to help those who suffer or seek change. We have been doing that in South Africa in projects worth some \$46 million during the past four years.