

of an important element of our national character -- a belief in a certain human duty toward others.

All these activities have drawn Canadians to journey abroad. This has required the establishment of a wide and still-expanding network of diplomatic and consular missions throughout the world. One of their major purposes is to protect Canadian interests and to assist in the development of the external links in the wide range of fields of contact and co-operation which Canadians seek to develop.

Recognition Canada, along with other states with a Western legal heritage, subscribes to the principle that the recognition of a government involves a decision as to whether an authority claiming to be the government of a state is entitled to be regarded as representing that state on the international plane. Recognition of a government should be distinguished from recognition of a state since recognition of a government, or of a new form of government of a state previously recognized as such, does not affect recognition of the state itself.

On the question, in a situation of violent change, of what government to have relations with, Canada, again along with most Western states, applies a simple test:

- Is the government in question able to exercise control, with a reasonable expectation that it can deal effectively with foreign governments for at least some period of time?

While this act of recognition is essentially legal in nature, the relevance of certain political considerations is recognized in modern international practice. There is, therefore, scope for the exercise of some discretion.

Further questions we ask ourselves are:

- Has the government in question expressed its willingness to fulfil its international obligations?