

an all-grant basis; we sent experts to Central America to help the Contadora countries devise an effective control and verification mechanism and have sent peacekeepers to Afghanistan and to Iran and Iraq; we have hosted a major international conference on the seismic verification of a nuclear test ban, and have been active in every international and alliance forum where arms control and disarmament are discussed; and we have opened up the process of foreign policy to all Canadians, whether by Canada's extraordinary response to the famine in Ethiopia and the Sahel, or by launching major public parliamentary reviews of foreign policy and aid policy, and then acting on most of the recommendations.

Naturally, some of these initiatives are controversial. You don't often make progress without controversy. Sometimes the debate is limited and largely internal. For example, former governments spoke more eloquently than they acted regarding the equality of women. When Brian Mulroney's government took office, only two of our posts abroad were headed by women. Today women are heads of posts for Canada in fourteen major missions including Spain, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Copenhagen, Hong Kong and others.

Sometimes the debate was more public. When Britain and the United States pulled out of UNESCO, Canada stayed, to reform from within. When Washington announced an embargo on Nicaragua, we immediately stated our own different policy. Former Canadian governments had worried about asserting Canada's sovereignty in our North; that territory is ours, and we have claimed it, and we are developing the means to assert our sovereignty in our North.

Knowing the risks, we have brought Soviet POWs out of Afghanistan: the Prime Minister has raised human rights questions directly with leaders of Korea, Zimbabwe, the Soviet Union, and Canada is among the leaders of the campaign to bring a peaceful end to the system of apartheid, which can tear southern Africa apart.

The world is too large to review country by country, issue by issue, and this nation is active almost everywhere. We have extended our peace keeping activities to the Sinai, and are in regular contact with Jewish and Arab leaders to see if there are ways we can help them move forward toward peace. We have established an active trading and diplomatic presence in Asia, opening new trade offices in Osaka, Shanghai, Bombay, and New Zealand.