

But, as I have indicated, democracy is more than elections. It is the whole process of accountability, as well as a system that includes an independent judiciary, freedom from censorship, a tolerance of minorities and a sense of pluralism. We must instil these fundamental human reflexes into the people, and not simply walk away the day after an election.

Our primary purpose is to assist countries to build toward sound performance on these issues. With the overall movement toward democracy around the world, and with the increased demand for aid dollars, the public expects our government to weigh a country's performance carefully before providing assistance.

The Prime Minister, at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Harare in October 1991, signalled Canada's intentions clearly with respect to future Canadian development assistance when he said, "For Canada, the future course is clear: we shall be increasingly channelling our development assistance to those countries that show respect for the fundamental rights and individual freedoms of their people. Canada will not subsidize repression and the stifling of democracy."

He reiterated this message at the Francophone Summit in Paris in November.

Our actions in Haiti and Indonesia in recent months testify to the firmness of our commitment to this principle.

Responding to Abuse

But dealing with open abuse is difficult.

There is, of course, the very practical step of bringing human rights deficiencies before the UN Human Rights Commission. Canada remains committed to this process and is one of its most vigorous supporters. But this route has little practical impact. Bilateral and multilateral actions are often required.

We are very sensitive to the fact that each situation is unique and that our judgments about what to do need to take into account both the unique circumstances of each of our partners and Canada's own interests and priorities in the region. Also, when possible, we will try to protect the poor, perhaps by shifting our aid from governments to non-governmental organizations.

Friendly Persuasion, Specially Targeted Assistance and Co-ordinated Actions

The measures we adopt may range from friendly persuasion and specially targeted assistance to explicit pressure exerted in conjunction with other countries, through our bilateral and multilateral aid programs. That includes reductions in the