

In mounting this effort, Canada will be guided by the principles which have governed our program of assistance for Poland and Hungary and which have been born out by our experience so far. These include:

- The recognition that private enterprise - both in the West and in Central and Eastern Europe - will be the cornerstone of economic growth, not governments.
- The consequent requirement for governments to facilitate private sector investment and trade.
- The desirability of the greatest possible coordination between governments, industry, academia and individuals in bringing their particular attributes to bear on the region.
- And the necessity to avoid duplication and redundancy internationally as we mount our various national efforts.

As we approach the challenge of assisting the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, we recognize that we are in this for the long haul. Progress will be uneven. It will not be immediate. There will be twists and turns in the road ahead, and that road will be bumpy. Therefore, as we embark on this journey together, we must act according to two principles.

The first is the requirement to avoid an attitude which, in its rigidity and impatience, treats the countries of Central and Eastern Europe as if they were in a competition. Our support for the new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe must be undifferentiated. In a very real sense, the success of individual countries in Central and Eastern Europe will be tied to the success of others. We must structure our policies accordingly.

But there is a second principle. And that is that our efforts must be governed by the behaviour of the governments of the region. Assistance offered to countries which have not demonstrated a commitment either to democracy or to the open market is to be avoided. We are here to offer assistance in the consolidation of a new system, not the perpetuation of an old one. To abandon that standard would be to abrogate our responsibilities to the people of the region.