

intervention is beginning to emerge, largely because consensus on human rights now appears at least possible.

### **The United Nations and Democracy**

The most effective form of conflict prevention is the promotion of democracy. The United Nations and other bodies do this by monitoring and aiding the electoral process.

But take care; democracy is more than elections. It is a process, a culture even, that incorporates accountability, an independent judiciary, freedom from censorship, a tolerance of minorities and a sense of pluralism.

These are not easy for everyone to learn. We have to extend our help to countries building these reflexes into their cultures and not simply walk away the day after the election.

Of course, we must react strongly to abuses. But we need to get at the hearts of people before the abuses occur.

### **The Ex-U.S.S.R.**

For many years, our security was seen only through the prism of the intentions and capabilities of the U.S.S.R. Today, Russia and other republics in the Commonwealth of Independent States are allies in our efforts to build a democratic world.

What has not changed is that our own security is still dependent on their realities because if they fail in their own efforts to build democracy our security will diminish.

In the immediate crisis, the multilateral community has helped; and, Secretary of State Baker, by convening a co-ordinating conference that included nations who have rarely graced the tables of donor countries before, did all of us a service.

At the same time, the new countries will continue to need us for some time to come. I have assured them that Canada will continue to be there. To date, Canada's assistance in dollar terms is about 40 per cent that of the U.S., and it was in California last September that my Prime Minister urged the world community to take these republics into its international systems.

This is more than ever necessary. Though the winter is not over, the Russians, Ukrainians and others have taken some tough economic decisions and their peoples have borne it stoically so far. We have helped them past the food crisis for now. They are in for the long haul, provided they can have the hope of real benefits. We have to be there for them in ways that work -- the