

the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Harare last fall, has been equally strong in his statements in this regard.

Those statements have been implemented. We have taken strong positions at recent meetings that we have held with countries such as Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Kenya, and the actions we have taken on countries such as Indonesia, Haiti and Peru confirm the seriousness of our policy and our intentions.

This is not intended to be a "holier than thou" position. But it is intended to reflect the values and opinions of ordinary Canadians who want their public funds to be spent where they can do the greatest good.

Canadians are a generous people. But, like other countries, we too are undergoing major structural changes as we adapt ourselves to the new realities of a rapidly shrinking world. We know that our future is based on strong and open relationships with other countries, whether through co-operation in trade or assistance, or through regional or global security arrangements.

We do not separate these objectives into tidy little boxes. We know that they are interrelated.

Democracy and respect for individual rights are prerequisites for sound and functioning economic markets and social institutions. These elements, in turn, are essential for peace and stability.

Inordinate defence expenditures by a repressive regime abroad create pressures for new defence expenditures by their neighbours and for us at home. Pollution and environmental degradation elsewhere create new threats to our own environmental well-being.

Canadians also want countries to live up to their international commitments. As developing countries are integrated into the international community, Canadians expect them to assume greater responsibilities. The developed world must not send mixed messages; if we are too soft on debt it will be more difficult to be tough on human rights.

On balance, Canadians have been supportive of our initiatives. But a majority of Canadians are against the outright forgiveness of loans. That is why we have attempted to be both innovative and flexible, not only to the very poor countries, but also to the more developed countries who are experiencing temporary difficulties. Better terms, longer repayment periods, debt reduction, new ways to convert debt into socially responsible activities -- these are all part of our policy options.

But we also realize that we cannot act alone. Any actions must be taken multilaterally if we are to produce real and long-standing change. If Canada were to act alone, our actions would be but a nudge in the right direction. The problems facing the