

arise and the conditions that obtain at any given moment. It means confronting new and more difficult policy decisions. Peace-making is harder than peace-keeping. Abandoning the principle of non-intervention in favour of a more intrusive concept of human rights is harder than relying on old slogans. These are the types of hard choices and new decisions that Canada must confront and that will mark an international order in the process of fundamental change.

I have given considerable thought to the interests and values that Canada should be advancing over the coming months, in light of the highly charged international agenda. These are issues that are discussed in a paper currently in the process of finalization in my Department, which I will send to each of you shortly. This paper elaborates on some of these themes and sets out a series of balanced foreign policy priorities for the coming year. It is a work plan for the government that is a type of annual update of Canada's foreign relations at a time of turbulence and change.

Canada is well positioned to face the challenges ahead. We have built a country that is respected abroad and whose views carry weight. In an extremely volatile period of history, our capacity to continue to wield influence will depend on many factors: our sensitivity to changing trends and responsiveness to the pressures of a rapidly evolving international environment and, of course, our own success at adapting the Canadian Constitution to meet the opportunities of the next century. We intend to pursue openly and assertively the issues and initiatives I have outlined this morning.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.