

economic and social measures to benefit fully from the impact of assistance programs.

The resources at our disposal are limited. We must make choices and agree together on the guidelines we will follow.

We believe-economic and social development in developing countries is a basic element of our own security. The consequences of underdevelopment, such as uncontrolled population growth, environmental damage and mass human migrations, have a long-term effect on our security.

The Government's earlier policy statements recognized the interdependent relationship between developed and developing countries. There are those who argue that we should abandon our commitments to the developing world because we cannot make a difference. My answer to that is that we must make a difference, or we will see the level of global insecurity, instability and uncertainty increase to our peril. We must work domestically, and internationally with other donors, to ensure that our assistance is applied coherently, consistently, and to the maximum possible benefit.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, we must not be daunted by the frantic pace of change in the world. Indeed, the end of the Cold War has ushered in an era of formidable opportunities. It is true, we still live in a dangerous world. The risks of warfare, famine, ecological disasters and economic deprivation still loom. However, great events unthinkable a few years ago have given rise to a renewed sense of hope, and must inspire us all as parliamentarians engaged in the democratic decision-making process of this country. Nelson Mandela was released from his prison cell and now leads his party in South Africa's first democratic elections. The Gdansk naval-yard electrician and underground union leader, Lech Walesa, is now Poland's democratically elected president. A political prisoner and playwright, Vaclav Havel, is now president of the Czech Republic.

Mr. Speaker, I am convinced the members of this House are well aware of the challenges we face, and I am confident they will prove equal to those challenges. This government attaches great importance to the role of Parliament in this Canadian foreign policy review exercise. This debate is not mere tokenism: it aims to involve members of Parliament in the Government's decision-making process. I cannot tell this House what shape this foreign policy will assume. It is up to Parliament and the parliamentary committee to give it its substance. However, I am sure my parliamentary colleagues will observe the Canadian values of tolerance, respect and open-mindedness. I repeat, Mr. Speaker, Canadians are proud of their country's contribution to world affairs. Maintaining our international presence and our tradition of excellence must be our first concern.

Thank you.