

- WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY, HOWEVER, TO EXERCISE DELICATE JUDGEMENT AS TO WHEN TO "GO PUBLIC" AND WHEN TO CONTINUE WITH "QUIET DIPLOMACY".
- THE PHRASE "QUIET DIPLOMACY" MAY SEEM TO SOME A EUPHEMISM FOR A LACK OF RESPONSIVENESS. THIS SIMPLY IS NOT THE CASE. IN THE PROPER CIRCUMSTANCES IT CAN ACCOMPLISH FAR MORE IN THE LONG RUN THAN PUBLIC APPEALS WHICH MAY SATISFY AN IMMEDIATE PENT-UP FRUSTRATION, BUT CUT OFF PROSPECTS FOR A SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF CONFLICTING VIEWS. AN ILLUSTRATION OF THIS TYPE OF APPROACH IS OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS INDONESIA. DURING A VISIT TO INDONESIA LAST YEAR, MY PREDECESSOR, MR. MACEACHEN, TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY OF A MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK TO RAISE THE PROBLEM OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND TO EXPRESS THE CONCERN WITH WHICH A NUMBER OF CANADIANS VIEW THIS ISSUE. MR. MACEACHEN NOTED THAT SOME OF THE DETAINEES HAVE ALREADY BEEN RELEASED BY THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THIS TREND WOULD CONTINUE. WE HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED THAT THIS TREND HAS IN FACT CONTINUED SINCE THAT TIME.
- WHETHER A GIVEN COURSE OF ACTION WILL BE EFFECTIVE DEPENDS AS WELL ON OUR ULTIMATE GOALS. IF WE SEEK TO RECTIFY ISOLATED ABUSES OR ABERRATIONS IN A STATE'S NORMAL PERFORMANCE IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD, THE TASK IS GENERALLY MANAGEABLE; BUT IF WE SEEK TO ALTER A FIRM POLICY OR THE FUNDAMENTAL BASIS OF ANOTHER STATE'S SOCIETY, THE ISSUE IS NOT LIKELY TO BE RESOLVED, AT LEAST EASILY OR QUICKLY. SOUTH AFRICA, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS RESOLUTELY REFUSED TO YIELD ON THE APARTHEID QUESTION, WHICH IS NOT SIMPLY ONE OF THAT STATE'S PERIPHERAL CUSTOMS, BUT ALSO AN INTEGRAL PART OF ITS SOCIAL COMPOSITION.
- THE APPROPRIATENESS OF CANADIAN ACTION IS RELATED TO OUR RECORD, PRINCIPLES AND TRADITIONS.
- WE WOULD NOT WISH TO CONDEMN HASTILY, BEFORE THE FACTS ARE IN OR BEFORE WE CAN REACH REASONABLY FIRM CONCLUSIONS AFTER AN EXAMINATION OF THE AVAILABLE EVIDENCE.
- SIMILARLY, IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO EXPECT OTHER COUNTRIES TO DO MORE THAN WE ARE PREPARED TO DO AT HOME.
- THE CANADIAN RECORD, BOTH AT HOME AND IN INTERNATIONAL BODIES LIKE THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, IS EXCELLENT, AND WE HAVE A RIGHT TO BE PROUD OF THE CONDITIONS WE ENJOY IN THIS COUNTRY.
- AT THE SAME TIME, WE ARE NOT PERFECT, AND WE MUST BE VIGOROUS IN OUR EFFORTS TO SECURE THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE STANDARDS.