

In general, our approach to the Third World is to insulate it as much as possible from East-West confrontations; in other words, to treat Third World countries on their own merits. Of course, when a developing country applies a foreign policy approach which actively aims at subverting the independence of other countries, our policy has been to terminate aid relations and to restrict economic relations to non-strategic commodities. However, for countries like Angola, our policy is to maintain open relations and to avoid punitive measures.

May I say in conclusion that I think it is important for Canadians to realize that foreign policy is not something secret or esoteric. It represents, internationally, what Canadians are and what they value. If fairly presented, it can be understood by all Canadians. I must say it is one of my personal goals to so open our foreign policy to the public as to make it generally understood. If the public can be persuaded to participate in the formation or carrying out of our foreign policy, so much the better. The businessman who fosters our commerce abroad and the aid administrator or field worker who spends part of his or her life helping the poor in developing countries are participating in our foreign policy, just as are the overworked and underpraised veterans of our foreign service.

Foreign policy is shaped by the value judgements of the government, based on the values generally shared by Canadians. In this way, Canadian foreign policy not only promotes democracy but also expresses the democracy that constitutes our national life.