

Consider another problem - the international drug trade. It is a fact that drugs are grown in the most impoverished rural areas of developing countries. It is also a fact that the use of drugs is exploding in the third world, again primarily in the poorest countries.

Supplier countries will not be able to solve their drug problem unless they are able to engage in other profitable economic activity. Those profitable alternatives will only exist if these countries are able to develop their economies to the point where such a choice exists. That means development.

Look at regional conflicts. The local wars that can threaten everyone's security are often the outgrowth of civil strife. This strife is aggravated if not caused by inequalities in the distribution of wealth and the scramble for a larger share of the economic pie. That strife can often be traced to under-development, where the pie is simply too small or where an almost feudal economic power-structure prevents prosperity. The war in Vietnam was not just about communism. It was driven by a sense of economic injustice and exploitation. The Central American conflict, so costly in dollars and lives, owes its origins to societies which cruelly exploited their populations, societies which were not developed.

Finally, the crisis of international debt will only be solved when the indebted countries are able to stand on their feet economically and generate their own wealth for their own populations. Debt relief is only the beginning. This will only have long-term effects if it provides a breathing space for countries to implement sensible economic policies - to start on a sure path to sound development.

Those problems threaten the security and prosperity of Canadians. Some of them are new problems. Others are old problems now made worse. Our generation grew up believing that real threat to prosperity and security come from beyond the Iron Curtain. With that curtain now in tatters, we see perhaps more clearly now that there are other threats, equally significant and in many ways more difficult to manage.

Official development assistance - either directly or indirectly - is designed to deal with these threats to Canadians. As such, it should be seen in the same light that we have always seen a national defence effort. The consequences of failure are no less severe.

I have spoken of threats to our security - new threats and new definitions of security. But there is also a question of prosperity. We keep saying that Canada is a country of traders. We depend more on trade than any other developed country - for 30% of our GNP and 2.4 million direct jobs. Our prosperity depends on expanding old markets and developing new ones.