

PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Canada has proposed a new approach to peacekeeping that would permit rapid deployment of intervention forces in times of crisis.

In a speech to the U.N. General Assembly on September 29, Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet announced that Canada is launching an in-depth study of options to strengthen the U.N.'s rapid response capability, including the creation of a permanent multilateral military force to be used at the discretion of the Security Council.

"Too often, the intervention of the United Nations comes too late, is too slow, and is carried out under inadequate conditions," he said.

The review will be conducted by the Departments of Foreign Affairs and National Defence and will involve peacekeeping experts from around the world. Mr. Ouellet said the government expects it to lead to a concrete proposal that will be submitted to the United Nations sometime next year.

Mr. Ouellet also announced that Canada will open an international peacekeeping research and training centre in October at a former military base in Cornwallis, Nova Scotia. The centre will be run by the Canadian Institute of Strategic Studies, a private think tank, and will offer training by Canadian and foreign experts for military officers, police, aid workers and other civilians from around the world. Among its first

students will be junior military officers from eastern Europe, in a project sponsored by NATO's Partnership for Peace.

Since Canadian Lester Pearson won a Nobel Prize in 1957 for his pioneering work with the United Nations in defusing the Suez crisis, peacekeeping has been a central element of Canada's foreign and defence policies.

More than 100,000 Canadians have taken part in peacekeeping missions, both under U.N. and other auspices, a record unmatched by any other country. One hundred have lost their lives while serving overseas.

Canada has led efforts for a sweeping reform of the United Nations and has given priority to using its experience and expertise to help improve the U.N.'s peacekeeping capabilities.

Canada's other priorities for U.N. reform, Mr. Ouellet said, include strengthening the organization's ability to prevent crises, re-evaluating its economic and social activities, expanding the Security Council to make it more representative of today's world, and putting the U.N. on a sound financial footing.

The New Peacekeeping Environment

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War, the demand for U.N. peacekeeping operations has expanded dramatically. In a number of recent missions, a civilian component—such as police, election organizers, human rights observers and legal advisers—has been added to the traditional military presence. Another new concept, humanitarian intervention, was introduced in Somalia and Bosnia.

The costs have skyrocketed as well. Canada's share of the U.N. peacekeeping budget has remained steady at 3.11 per cent for the last five years, but in absolute terms its contributions have risen from \$12 million in 1991-92 to a projected \$158.9 million for 1994-95.

Currently 3,125 Canadian armed forces personnel and 353 civilians, including 45 Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) officers, are engaged in 12 peacekeeping operations, in the

"Canadians have long believed our interests to be served by the rule of the law and by international agreements which promote collective security. We believe that our involvement in peacekeeping operations over four decades is a concrete reflection of our basic security and foreign policy interests."

—André Ouellet, Foreign Affairs Minister

Middle East, Korea, Cambodia, Mozambique and the Dominican Republic, among others. The largest contingents are in the former Yugoslavia (2,000) and Rwanda (600).

Bosnia and Croatia

Canada has played a key role in the Balkans since 1991 when it joined the European Community Monitoring Mission in Croatia. It committed troops to the U.N. Protection Force the following year, and Canadian naval forces and a destroyer are part of NATO's fleet in the Adriatic. Canada has the third largest contingent, after Britain and France, in the U.N. force.

On September 23 Defence Minister David Collette announced that Canada would extend the mandate of its troops in Bosnia and Croatia for another six months. Foreign Minister Ouellet told Parliament: "We need to give negotiations a chance to work. We need to ensure the provision of humanitarian assistance while political pressure takes effect."

Since the fall of 1991, Canada has contributed \$60 million in humanitarian aid for victims of conflict in the former Yugoslavia.

Haiti

Canada, which has a large Haitian community centred in Montreal, has played and continues to play an active role in international efforts to restore Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power.

Canada has pledged to send 100 RCMP officers as part of a U.N. peacekeeping mission to help restore order and train a civilian police force in Haiti. They will be accompanied by 600 military personnel who will provide engineering and logistics support. In October, the RCMP will begin training Haitians in Canada to become part of a new civilian police force that will replace Haiti's military-controlled police. Mr. Ouellet has said Canada will also provide substantial

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National Defence



Canadian peacekeepers and refugees in Croatia