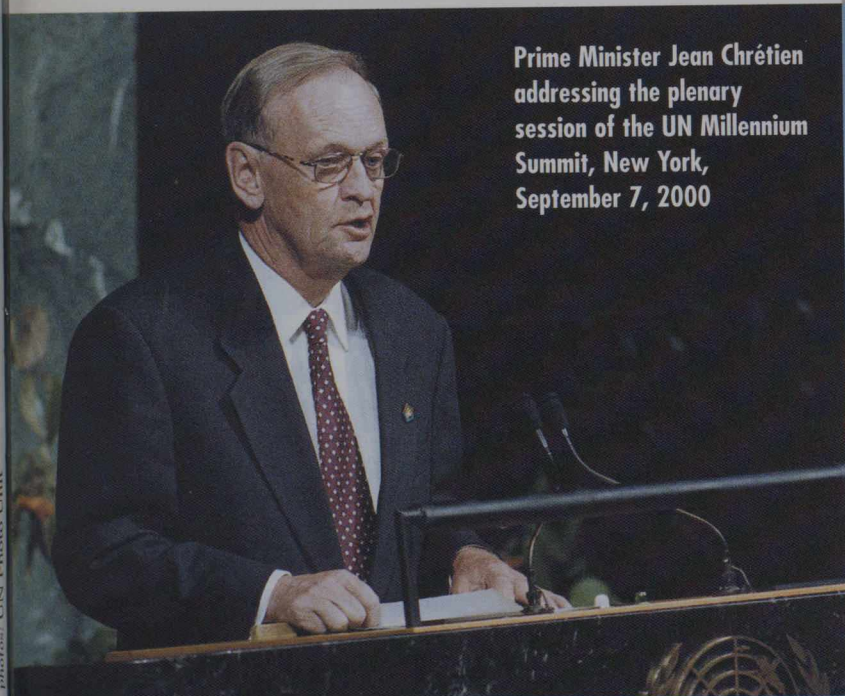


investigate violations of sanctions and recommend ways of preventing sanctions busting in the future. The result was an unprecedented "naming of names" of sanctions violators and decisive action by the Council to better enforce the sanctions. Canada's efforts have also highlighted the destructive impact of "conflict diamonds" in Africa, leading to enhanced international efforts to curb the illicit diamond trades that fuel a number of deadly conflicts on that continent.

The Security Council has effectively tightened its sanctions and has set up a sanctions monitoring mechanism to oversee compliance by UN member states. The result has been greater compliance with the sanctions, and indeed there are signs that they are having an effect. From the outset, the aim of the sanctions has been to pressure UNITA to return to the negotiating table. ●—



Leaders of UN Security Council member countries attending special Millennium Summit session, New York, September 7, 2000



Prime Minister Jean Chrétien addressing the plenary session of the UN Millennium Summit, New York, September 7, 2000

About the UN Security Council

The 15-member Security Council is the United Nations' main organ responsible for maintaining global peace and security. The 5 permanent members are China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States; they are able to veto any Council resolution they oppose. The other 10 members are elected by the General Assembly to serve two-year terms, with candidate countries chosen to represent the various regions of the world. The Council Presidency rotates on a monthly basis among the 15 members. Canada has served as a non-permanent member six times in the 55 years since the UN was founded.

UN Model Assembly

Another way for Canadian youth to get acquainted with the UN system is by taking part in the National Model United Nations. A few months ago, some 225 Canadian students from nine colleges and universities throughout the country (including the Nunavut Arctic College) participated in the annual UN simulation in New York, along with another 3500 students from all over the world. Participants also attended an open Security Council session, chaired by former Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy.

In a simulation, the delegation from each institution represents a different country. The students must defend that country's foreign policy in the Model UN Assembly. The simulations go back to 1923, in the time of the Geneva-based League of Nations, predecessor of today's UN.

Maintaining the momentum

Canada's term on the Security Council comes to a close at the end of December 2000, but an important task lies ahead: to ensure that the momentum gathered in the past two years is maintained. With like-minded countries (particularly non-permanent Council members), Canada intends to work to complete the reforms initiated and to further improve the effectiveness of the Council.