

This would be the first time in Canadian history that the RCMP has undertaken such a role. In order to be ready, their Commissioner asked for 100 volunteers. So far, 2,000 members have responded to that call - from a total force of over 14,000. We believe that Canadian mounties, who more than a century ago brought a universal respect for law and order to our own West, can extend that tradition to Namibia, as that new nation finally comes of age.

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This is an unprecedented and challenging period in world affairs.

On the one hand, there is real movement on problems that, not long ago, seemed intractable - that is true in Southern Africa, in Indochina, in parts of the Middle East and, most dramatically, in East-West relations.

At the same time, the sense of crisis becomes more acute. Our climate is changing, bringing drought, or inundation, or threats to our very survival. New diseases develop. New technologies allow proliferation of the most deadly weapons. Terrorism becomes more widespread.

What is common about these problems is that none of them can be solved by one nation acting alone, nor by one group of powerful nations concerting their will.

In the past, we assumed the world could survive man's worst excesses. Now, in an age of suitcase bombs, and the AIDS pandemic, and holes in the ozone, there is doubt about that elemental ability to survive. Doubt, but not despair - indeed the opposite of despair. What marks this period in world affairs is an activism and a pragmatism which yield surprising results. And they come together here, in this United Nations.

We are entering an era where the words of the UN Charter must cease to be goals to which we aspire; they must become descriptions of our common action. And the term "United Nations" cannot simply be the name of our institution; it must become a statement of our common purpose.

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Who today can imagine a nuclear war in which there are winners and losers?