Canada's own assistance to developing nations is increasingly tied to their efforts to protect basic human rights, to develop democratic values and institutions, and to undertake "good governance" in their policies and programs. We urge other Member Nations and this General Assembly to adopt a similar philosophy and similar practices, if we are to eradicate the seeds of conflict from within Nation States.

These are, of course, resolutions for long-term prevention of conflict. We cannot, however, ignore the current state of the world and that is why the Secretary-General's Report "An Agenda for Peace" is such an important and pivotal document for this General Assembly.

Canada is no stranger to the process of bringing and keeping peace to all the regions of the world. Of the 45,000 peacekeeping forces currently serving under the UN flag, 4,300 or almost ten per cent are Canadian.

No other nation has made a greater commitment to UN peacekeeping as Canada. Canada has served in virtually every UN peacekeeping mission, and Canadians currently serve in such varied missions as El Salvador, Cambodia, the former Yugoslavia, Somalia and the Middle East.

Our experience in these and other missions has taught us that no two missions are the same, and our experience has taught us that "peacekeeping," which is not even mentioned in the UN Charter, is a dynamic concept that must be further refined to meet the challenges of the 1990s and beyond. Consequently, we are pleased that the Secretary-General consulted so broadly on this matter and that much of our experience and many of our suggestions are reflected in the Final Report.

Preventive Diplomacy and Peacemaking

We commend the Secretary-General's emphasis on preventive diplomacy and peacemaking as the preferred options. We encourage him to continue to use all of the means at his disposal to defuse crises, from fact-finding missions to mediation. We consider it a duty of all Member States to share with the Secretary-General all information that can help him to fulfil this role.

We strongly support the concept of preventive peacekeeping and urge the Security Council to adopt this option, when lives can be saved, confrontation averted or democracy stabilized. In Kosovo, for example, preventive diplomacy by the Security Council and the Secretary-General may well prevent bloodshed and anarchy.

In the area of peacemaking, we agree that the Secretary-General should continue to use mediation and negotiation to facilitate the process of peace, and that the Security Council should avail