

The Secretary-General has forcefully argued that the UN must be both more active and more interventionist in preventing and resolving conflict. This approach is not a reversion to colonialism, under which the UN simply becomes a new instrument for the interference by the major, richer, developed world into the affairs of poorer countries and regions. Instead, it is something new, something creative, that will ensure we have a political instrument that parallels the globalization already taking place on the economic side of world affairs -- and political co-operation on a global basis is as essential as economic co-operation.

Fundamental to Canada's approach to co-operative security is adapting peacekeeping mechanisms to meet new requirements.

Canadians believe that we invented peacekeeping. Not only did we invent it, but we have been one of its major active proponents, participating in virtually every UN peacekeeping exercise to date.

We, Canada, are today engaged in 15 peacekeeping missions around the world, from El Salvador to Cambodia to Somalia to Bosnia. With under 1 per cent of the world's population, we provide about 10 per cent of the world's peacekeepers.

Peacekeeping is an invention that we have been most willing to share with the world, one that has already saved untold numbers of lives and prevented untold amounts of damage to property and to the world's environment. It does not come cheap.

Peacekeeping this year will cost the United Nations US\$3.7 billion, a staggering amount, but not excessive in a global economy of US\$22 trillion. Nor is it excessive when one considers the costs of the alternatives: instability at best, anarchy, probably, and in many cases, war. These do not come cheap, either, as the economic costs alone can be measured in large multiples of the costs of peacekeeping. And the economic costs fade into insignificance when compared with the human devastation that results.

It makes sense, then, to face up to the new challenges that lie ahead, recognizing the new risks to peacekeepers, the tougher situations in which the UN must act, and of the substantially increased numbers of operations that the UN has both authorized and is currently considering.

To meet the challenge, the United Nations, therefore, must be in a position to call on more nations to shoulder the responsibilities of peacekeeping. Canada, and the other regulars, cannot do it alone. Japan made a bold decision, politically controversial at home, to send peacekeepers to Cambodia -- its first such mission ever. Germany is