

By the same token, the war in the former Yugoslavia has demonstrated the limitations of highly passive techniques for conflict resolution, and we must be prepared to consider more active forms of intervention when circumstances warrant.

We must also be prepared to expand activities in "post conflict peace-building," following the example currently in place in Cambodia that includes creating conditions for nation-wide elections and other democratic activities.

But even establishing and overseeing elections is not enough to ensure that peace and freedom will prevail. Our experience in other countries in developing and maintaining the very structures, processes and attitudes that are so necessary for the survival of democracy, demonstrate over and over the virtual miracles that we, in Canada, have performed in forming and re-forming our own democratic institutions.

As George Brown said in 1865, "We are endeavouring to adjust, harmoniously, greater difficulties than have plunged other countries into all the horrors of civil war ... Have we not then great cause of thankfulness that we have found a better way for the solution of our troubles ...?"

My answer to George Brown is a resounding "YES," a "YES" that is as true in 1992 as it was in 1865.

"YES" -- we in Canada have found a better way to resolve our differences, peacefully and honourably.

Many Canadians are bored or exhausted by the many rounds of constitutional negotiations. But we cannot let this fatigue divest us of the gains that have been earned through consultation and compromise. Democracy requires a certain amount of vigilance -- and yes, individual involvement -- to ensure that the views of the people are truly reflected and represented.

That means ensuring a set of rules that not only protects the past, our proud and heroic heritage, but also leaves room for new opportunities in the future.

The Agreement reached in Charlottetown on August 28 does exactly that. I urge you to read it with an open heart and with an open mind.

Don't believe those people who suggest that voting "NO" for this reason or that reason is simply a way of sending a message to governments and politicians; that there will be another chance, a better deal.

There will be no second chances; there will be no better deals for Canada.