

accelerate things, which was the origin of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). NEPAD is an effort to attack one or two very specialized tasks -- not to take authority away from the continental organization, but to kick-start, act as a catalyst and accelerate action. The most urgent things on the agenda are conflict resolution, peace and good governance. Africa cannot do this alone, hence the idea of a partnership with the G8.

This is not a funding exercise, the High Commissioner said, it is a fundamental attempt to change the way Africans do business in Africa. It is easier for Africans to accept conditionalities when they are self-imposed. It puts greater responsibility on Africans to actually live up to these expectations. Canada and Prime Minister Chrétien have shown huge commitment to this process. In the end, what will matter is when people really do govern, then conflict might decrease. If Africa is rich in resources and conflict is over resources, a good start might be made in the Sudan, Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which is also a resource rich country. Africans are talking much more about conflict resolution and this is where the input of civil society and governments from outside Africa, who sometimes may see the situation more clearly and have resources to help, would be valued.

Africa, many other nations in the world, and now since September 11, North America, are starting to recognize newly emerging forms of conflict, Lt.-Gen. (ret'd) Romeo Dallaire, of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), stated in his remarks. In Central and West Africa there are a wide range of scenarios being played out from humanitarian catastrophes that turn into security nightmares or security nightmares that create humanitarian catastrophes. Describing the mind-boggling scope of these crises for a largely Canadian audience, General Dallaire, asked them to imagine moving the population of Montreal to Ottawa with only what they have on their backs, feeding them twice a day, providing security and water and treating diseases. The scale of needed responses often creates an impression of impossibility and apathy. He noted that during the Rwandan catastrophe, figure skater Tanya Harding's attempts to get her competitor's kneecaps destroyed got more media attention in North America than the Rwandan massacre during the same three months.

African internal conflicts, he argued, have been created by autocrats and dictators, who were kept in power since their revolutions in the late 1950's and '60's by Cold War imperatives. Both sides in the Cold War supported regimes that could maintain internal control and prevent flare-ups. In 1989 we did not need them anymore; the Cold War was over, so we left them to sort themselves out. This is exactly what they have been doing -- sorting themselves out against autocratic powers, where moderates are continually under threat and extremists exercise a brutality that defies the mind. There have also been conflicts between nations. For example, in the Great Lakes region, there was an explosion from Rwanda into a whole region, which now involves the east of Zaire, southern Uganda, Burundi, and even western Tanzania. Internal conflicts can turn into regional conflicts, which become far more complex and usually relate to self-interest in resources, as demonstrated in the Great Lakes region. There is also banditry or small-scale conflicts. One example is the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in Northern Uganda, which has no outright ambition except killing and not accepting a government structure. Another is the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in the Southern Sudan, a conflict with the government of Sudan, which has significant religious overtones. There are also cross-border