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- ◆ a reconstruction capability: from constitution-writers to contractors and construction engineers.

Most of this capability is already located either in the private sector or in existing agencies of government. A peace, order and good government agency has to find these people, work with their departments and employers to create a secondment strategy and then establish training regimens that work through various deployment scenarios and test capabilities against reality.

This is muscular multilateralism. Developing these capabilities would help the UN raise its own capacity to deploy to prevent conflict before it starts and rebuild after it is over. Such a program would demonstrate that Canada is prepared to make a serious investment in sustaining and developing the capacity of states to shoulder the burdens that globalization has placed upon them. “Global governance” and “international community” are empty slogans as long as the states that compose our global order lack the capacity to protect their citizens and enhance their lives. If Canada fails to help solve the growing global crisis of state order—in the 20 to 30 states that are burdened, failing or failed—our commitment to “global governance” will be hollow, for global governance means nothing unless states have the capacity to take part in global solutions to our common problems.

Finally, a focus upon peace, order and good governance helps us to meet a vital national interest. Just as we want to maintain our own national independence, to safeguard the land we care about, so we want to help others to do the same. If we love our own land, we have good reasons to help others create political orders that deserve the same fierce attachment. Finally, we need to shed the Canadian sense of immunity and impunity, that deeply-rooted belief that we are safe from history’s dangers. Our sense of national interest could use a certain sober measure of fear. A global order in which states are no longer able to protect their own people and their own territory presents Canada with real and growing danger. But we have the resources—and most of all, the political memory—that gives us a unique ability to turn danger into opportunity.