

Council must be an immediate cessation of hostilities in the entire region. Secondly, this must be followed as rapidly as possible by the withdrawal of all foreign forces from the territory of Cambodia and from the territory of Vietnam. And, thirdly, it is equally clear to my Government that we must move the treatment of these differences from the military to the political level. In other words, it is our earnest hope that the Council may be able to proceed beyond the essential first steps of a military cease-fire and withdrawal to a consideration of practical ways and means of developing, in an orderly fashion, a climate conducive to peace, security and stability not only for the nations directly involved in the conflict but also for their neighbours and the world at large.

But it would be a serious mistake to concentrate only on the current outbursts of violence and ignore the other ills that have plagued this region for so long. Canada has raised its voice before to deplore the denial of human rights in parts of that region. Canada, like many other nations, and in particular the countries neighbouring that region, has been shocked by the continuing exodus of thousands of refugees who have been forced for a variety of reasons to flee their homelands. We have tried, and are continuing to try, to alleviate this problem. But more sweeping measures must be taken if we want to stop violence, prevent the denial of human dignity, and alleviate the conditions that have driven human beings to join the flow of refugees. The peoples and governments of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos must be given more than sympathy or remonstrance. They must be helped to develop the political framework within which they will be able to live in peace and security. The peoples of the countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) must be given more than *ad hoc* humanitarian assistance and vague reassurances. They are entitled to long-term stability and the international community would be well advised to help them to achieve it.

In Canada's view, therefore, the Security Council and the United Nations as a whole must urgently consider what modalities might best be established to achieve these long-term objectives. We know of past efforts to bring peace to the area. We also know of past failures, and we should be the last to underestimate the difficulties that will lie in the path of such a conciliation endeavour. But this effort must nevertheless be undertaken and, with will and determination, the countries directly involved, the neighbouring nations directly affected and other interested powers should be able to assemble in an appropriate fashion in order to create conditions of peace and security for the entire region. In our view, the Secretary-General is well placed to play a useful role in this process, and we urge the parties to take advantage of his offer to assist.

Against the background of what I have said already, we entertain the hope that the Security Council may invite the Secretary-General informally to explore possibilities that may be open and acceptable to those most directly involved for a political meeting that would aim at translating into mutually-acceptable political realities the issues of contention that are today the basis of unacceptable military action, which must come to an end.