

which could take the form of international accords committing some of the countries in the Coalition under the authority of the UN. Such multilateral arrangements would, no doubt, be more acceptable to the people of the region. In the same spirit, Canada feels that it would be preferable for these guarantees not to include the permanent deployment of foreign forces in the Gulf.

On a longer-range basis, however, these countries must work to establish mechanisms and structures that will enable them to resolve their disputes peacefully and contribute to greater trust among them. While the experience of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe cannot be transferred to this region as is, some of its lessons may offer promising avenues.

Several European countries are engaged in actively exploring this concept. After the War ends, they may propose the creation of a Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean, which would also include the Persian Gulf region for this purpose. This is an ambitious project and Canada is carefully monitoring its development.

In the same spirit, when visited recently by my colleague Dr. Meguid, the Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs, we agreed on the importance of beginning immediately a study of post-war security structures. This would include a consideration of possible mechanisms to incorporate into a regional security structure. Border guarantees, a peaceful mechanism for the resolution of disputes and the establishment of confidence-building measures would form the bases for this structure. Such a mechanism would also allow the discussion of non-military matters, as in the case of the CSCE's second and third baskets.

Such a global approach to security matters, based on the establishment of genuine dialogue among the various regional partners, would allow such issues as the development of democratic institutions in the region to be addressed. But if they are to have any chance at all of succeeding, efforts to achieve greater regional security and stability must courageously address the

very roots of the problems that exist in the Middle East. These root causes are well known.

The Israeli-Arab conflict

The thorniest issue involves relations between Israel and the Arab countries. After decades of conflict, the build-up of hatred and misunderstanding has been enormous.

No regional security plan can expect to succeed unless it is firmly determined to make progress towards a comprehensive, lasting, negotiated settlement of the Israeli-Arab conflict, including the Palestinian question. Such a negotiated settlement must be founded on Resolutions 242 and 338 of the Security Council. In this regard, even before the Gulf War, Canada let it be known that it favoured holding an international conference. While we should not exclude other options, a well-organized conference with reasonable chances of success could indeed be useful and contribute to the peace process.

Economic disparities

When faced with numerous conflicts, especially those involving less-developed countries, Canada has always emphasized social and economic imperatives. This need is even more urgent in the Middle East. Reconstruction is doomed to fail if it ignores social and human dimensions and does not address economic disparities.

The region requires a new framework, which must be defined by the nationals and the states that make up the region and the people who live in them. There can be no peace without prosperity and no stability without justice either within states or between states. Democracy also promotes justice, prosperity and peace. Long-term security cannot be built solely on military structures and political agreements. Long-term security, in the Middle East as elsewhere, can rest only on genuine cooperation between states, a guarantee of dialogue and confidence...

Our role is to encourage the countries of this region to strive towards such an objective. For instance, after the hostilities have ceased, the Gulf states and indeed the entire Middle East

might consider creating an organization for the purpose of economic cooperation. Such an organization, which might be affiliated with the United Nations and maintain contact with the major international economic and financial institutions, would help to ensure greater economic stability in the region.

Lessons of the crisis

Finally, we must begin now to learn the important lessons of this conflict. We bear a considerable burden of responsibility. Over the years, to varying degrees, we have all helped to create a military apparatus in this region, especially in Iraq, that is beyond human comprehension. Military assistance in the region has exceeded economic assistance. This must stop. The governments most concerned are already making an effort in this regard.

To be credible, any peace plan must include strict measures to check the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the stockpiling of conventional weapons in the region. Multilateral negotiations have already begun regarding these crucial issues, such as the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and missile-launching techniques. So far, however, their success has been limited owing to the lack of political will or the conflicting interests of the various parties involved. It is urgent that we make further efforts to display a strong political will.

In this belief, Canada plans to promote a World Summit on Instruments of War and Weapons of Mass Destruction in the coming months. This summit would become a showcase for a new political consultation. It would aim to develop a strict plan of action that would result in the adoption by 1995 of an integrating framework for systems ensuring the non-proliferation and control of weapons, including conventional weapons...

If this war is to have any meaning, it must serve to build peace. It is on our ability to build this peace that we will be judged. We are aware of this, and Canada does not intend to spare any effort to meet this extraordinary challenge.