

largest peacekeeping contingent in the former Yugoslavia, with peacekeepers in Cambodia, the Middle East and elsewhere, obviously Canada remains firmly committed to making its contribution.

For example, in September 1991, Prime Minister Mulroney led the call for the UN Security Council to deal with the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. Since April 1992, we have deployed some 2,400 troops and 45 Royal Canadian Mounted Police monitors with the UN Protection Force. Another 12 Canadian soldiers are deployed with a CSCE [Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe] mission.

We have provided over \$38 million worth of humanitarian assistance. This July, we contributed \$250,000 to the Canadian Red Cross for medical personnel and relief action for 230 abandoned patients, mostly children. And we are continuing to explore ways of helping the victims of this tragic conflict.

Our role in peacekeeping has been a source of national pride from the very first day former Prime Minister Lester Pearson came up with the idea during the Suez Crisis. We see it in a broad international context. We are conscious of the fact that our security and prosperity depend on a strong and stable international community, based on the rule of law and effective international institutions. This is not just my view or the government's. It is also the opinion of the vast majority of Canadians.

Let's look at some of the specific reforms needed to make the UN more effective.

A month from now, when the UN General Assembly begins, Canada's top priority will be to work with partners, such as the United States, to encourage a serious and determined process of reform. Prime Minister Campbell made that case forcefully at the G7 summit in Tokyo, and the final communiqué reflected the leaders' understanding that progress is needed now.

The United Nations needs more than fine-tuning. We need fundamental improvements in the way it is structured and operates.

Today, the international community is being called upon to intervene in a multitude of localized or regional conflicts caused by ethnic or religious hostility, famine and the abuse of human rights.

We find ourselves struggling to cope with new demands, new expectations and

new challenges, equipped with tools designed for another age and other purposes. In these circumstances, we must not allow ourselves to become discouraged or disaffected. Instead, we must be more determined than ever to give ourselves late-20th-century tools for late-20th-century problems.

The UN Secretary-General's *An Agenda for Peace* is an excellent road map. Isn't it time that we stopped just reading the map and took some bold steps down the road towards a more effective UN? Steps, for example, in areas such as peacekeeping, peacemaking, enforcement, preventive diplomacy or peacebuilding?

Canadian Forces photo



At one point last year, Canadians represented some 10 percent of forces involved in UN peacekeeping missions.

Take, for example, the case of mandates that are given to UN peacekeeping missions. At times, these mandates have been unclear and imprecise. At times, the scope of the mandate has not been matched by the resources provided to the mission.

When UN missions are established, they must have clear and precise mandates, they must be given the authority they need to deal promptly and effectively with situations as they develop in the field, and they must be given the resources they need to get the job done.

We also need to change the culture of peacekeeping — the fundamental con-

cepts and attitudes underlying our approach. Too many people still think of peacekeeping as an exclusively military operation, with soldiers in blue berets keeping former combatants apart. So much more is involved today. So much more is needed today.

For example, civilians are playing an increasingly important role in missions to restore peace. Cambodia is a case in point. Soldiers aren't the only ones on the front lines. There are also legal experts, medical personnel, and specialists in the area of election organization and monitoring. In other situations, there may be a need for professional police, experts on infrastruc-

ture and municipal administration, or human rights observers.

That is where the notion of peacebuilding comes in. The fact is that what is often required today is not just to restore peace, but to restore communities, to rebuild roads and schools, water and sewage systems, hospitals and basic public services.

Obviously, military operations will continue to be crucial to UN intervention in matters of peace and security. But, here again, there is plenty of room for improvement, especially in the areas of planning, training, command and logistical support. When you consider the fact that there has been a sixfold increase in the number of