

of the problem and must provide new rules that will be binding and enforceable. Freedom on the high seas, like freedom everywhere, must be tempered by common sense and regard for the rights of others. Canada will do its part to promote an early and satisfactory outcome, but all participants must be prepared to do their share.

Security Council Reform

I turn now to reform of the Security Council. Canada attaches overriding importance to the UN Charter's provisions regarding peace and security, and accordingly to the work of the Security Council. As our track record since the foundation of the United Nations demonstrates, we have consistently made multilateralism and the UN cornerstones of both our foreign and defence policies. Moreover, through our commitment to peacekeeping and other activities, we have consistently supported the Security Council's central role in the maintenance of world peace and stability. I can assure you that this role will continue, and indeed that we stand ready to enhance our involvement in questions of international peace and security. I have already announced our candidacy for the Security Council for the 1999-2000 term.

Accordingly, for Canada it is important to encourage reform of the Security Council wherever this is possible, in order to make it a more effective and credible Charter instrument. Helpful progress has been made recently. But Canada wants to ensure that the Council's working methods are further improved, that it becomes more transparent, and that its arrangements for dealing with - and financing - peacekeeping operations (including the essential consultations with the troop contributors) are strengthened and regularized.

It must also be recognized that the make-up of the Council does not adequately reflect the world we live in today. We have to take account of the legitimate, and welcome, desire of numerous member states - small as well as middle and large powers in our much expanded community of nations - to assume increased responsibility and obligations in the management of international peace and security.

In this regard, we have heard a number of proposals to increase the permanent membership of the Council. Some have advocated the addition of two specific new permanent members. Canada has considerable sympathy for their aspirations. Others have proposed the addition of five new permanent members but their lists vary. Some have argued that criteria should be developed in order to determine the choice of candidates, others that regional groups should make such decisions for all new seats or for some of them. Many simply oppose the addition of any new permanent members, or have disputed the claims of one or several possible candidates.