

structure, or “specialize” to a much greater extent? Depending on the outcome of the conventional force negotiations in Europe, should all or some of the Canadian contingent come home, and might European NATO members have spare capacity to lend us a hand with air and naval roles in the North American area? How can we best handle the need for aerospace surveillance, and the range of “non-military” security needs (against drugs, pollution, fisheries violations, etc) in our vast coastal zones? Finally, how should we handle the ever-growing demands on Canada in the peacekeeping area since they have now reached a scale where this can no longer simply be treated as an “ancillary” role for the Armed Forces?

Regional Conflicts and the United Nations

One of the strongest Canadian contributions to improving international security in this new decade, and this new era, should be expected in the reinforcement of the collective security operations of the United Nations – through its peace-making and peacekeeping functions. The Iran-Iraq truce, the Afghanistan withdrawal and the Namibia transition have all shown that the superpowers are now more ready to have this work carried out, and no country is better placed than Canada – with its unparalleled peacekeeping experience – to push forward the necessary measures to institutionalize these peacekeeping capacities.

Regional conflicts and the UN are not side-issues. Most of the 22 million human beings killed by warfare since World War Two have died in Third World conflicts where these international systems could now make a vital difference. If they are not now strengthened, together with the economic changes and assistance required to attack the root causes of much of this turmoil, we must expect more, bigger and more dangerous wars with an increase in the spillover into our own lives – in the forms of new weaponry, terrorism, refugee flows and environmental disasters. In addition to its peacekeeping record, and Security Council membership in 1990, Canada has brought high credibility to Third World issues because of its relatively generous aid programs. A reversal of this record through continued aid cutbacks would materially damage our capacity to contribute to global security.

Unless the new global opening is seized and fully developed, the 1990s are also likely to be a decade of proliferation. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is up for renewal in 1995 and many believe that the maintenance of a non-proliferation regime will now hinge on a much more dramatic capping of the “vertical proliferation” by existing