

To respond quickly and professionally to crises requiring international attention, the United Nations and its member states must thoroughly and constantly re-examine the way in which peacekeeping operations are managed. In Ottawa, in other world capitals and at UN Headquarters in New York, there is an emerging consensus that any UN action must be more clearly thought out, broadly supported and effectively financed. Member states must examine the UN's ability to organize and launch new missions, the capacity to maintain clear lines of authority and decision making between UN Headquarters and field missions, and the capacity of UN forces on the ground — often comprised of many different nationalities — to co-ordinate their efforts.

"The times call for thinking afresh, for striving together and for creating new ways to overcome crises... The changed face of conflict today requires us to be perceptive, adaptive, creative and courageous... [A]bove all it requires a deeper commitment to co-operation and true multilateralism than humanity has ever achieved before."

UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Supplement to *An Agenda for Peace*

RESPONDING TO THE CHALLENGES

Canada has been at the forefront of efforts to meet the new challenges to international peacekeeping. In February 1994, the Government announced the establishment of the Lester B. Pearson Canadian International Peacekeeping Training Centre. Located on the site of a former military base in Cornwallis, Nova Scotia, the Centre offers instruction in the theoretical foundations of peacekeeping as well as its more practical aspects.

In April 1994, Canada hosted a "brainstorming seminar" in Ottawa, at which UN officials and troop-contributing countries discussed issues associated with political direction, command and control, and the training of peacekeeping personnel. In September 1994, Canada undertook to prepare a study on a UN rapid reaction capability, for presentation to the 50th session of the UN General Assembly in September 1995. The study focussed on making practical proposals to enhance the UN's ability to react more rapidly in times of crisis.

As foreseen by Mr. Pearson, peacekeeping has become the conflict-resolution instrument of choice for many organizations. Canada, with its internationally recognized multilateral expertise and experience, is helping to adapt peacekeeping to better meet the demands of the evolving post-Cold War environment. Canada will continue to choose its contributions carefully to make the optimum use of valuable resources. The Government will also continue to ensure that Canadian involvement is firmly backed by the Canadian public and by Parliament.