

POST-HOSTILITIES PLANNING

I. INTRODUCTION

Even as the military conflict in the Gulf continues, governments are being properly asked about plans for the post-war period. It is an important subject that merits careful attention.

As we approach the challenges of the post-hostilities period, it is essential to situate any proposals within the context of a continued and determined commitment to the solidarity and objectives of the coalition. Iraqi compliance with Security Council resolutions, including complete and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait, have been and must remain clear and non-negotiable conditions for the cessation of hostilities. At the same time, it is never too early to start planning for the post-hostilities period, particularly in such a region of complex problems.

A starting point has to be that it is up to the countries of the region to manage their own security, recognizing however that the deeply rooted animosities and distrust that mark the region will require an externally-guaranteed context. A central objective should be to uphold the authority of the UN and to strengthen its future effectiveness.

The requirements of the post-hostilities period must be addressed in a way that takes into account the underlying resentments and instabilities of the region, and the legitimate security and other concerns of all Middle East countries. The interests of other major players, including those of the coalition and others such as the Soviet Union, must likewise be addressed. Close consultation and cooperation among concerned states on post-hostilities planning is essential.

Canada has had a long involvement in the area, not only through association with the current UN-authorized military action or our diplomatic and economic activity since last August. Indeed, Canada has participated in all of the UN peacekeeping operations in the region over the last thirty-five years, and we have reiterated our willingness to play similar roles in the future. We also have a developed pattern of interlocking relationships involving personal, economic and other ties with