

excepted);

- * corraling the commitments for a multinational force;
- * signalling mobilization to and demobilization from the field.
- Recognition of the critical importance of DFAIT's knowledge and expertise was implicit in the PCO's appointment of DFAIT secondees to the Interdepartmental Task Force. The Department's participation in the central task force enabled the PCO to tap as directly as possible into DFAIT's foreign service expertise. All other political motivations aside, it is clear the PCO found it appropriate if not altogether strategic to equip and lead its central coordinating function with a built-in linkage into DFAIT.
- Ambassador Chrétien's appointment as UN Special Envoy spoke not only of the quality of his personal knowledge and expertise but also of DFAIT's ability to foster excellence in its midst. As UN Special Envoy, Chrétien demonstrated a wide range of professional assets, many stemming from his post experience in the Great Lakes region. DFAIT's rotational human resources stream is in fact designed with such a range in mind.

DFAIT succeeded during the AGL crisis in bridging the political, humanitarian and military. The ease with which it did so was evident in its diplomatic dialogue, in its contributions to international fora and in its rigorous support of the interdepartmental effort.

DFAIT's ability to grasp and appreciate foreign policy matters and international occurrences from a broad perspective encompassing political, economic, diplomatic, humanitarian, and security angles gives it an advantage in an interdepartmental setting tasked to deal with an international or multilateral crisis. It is one to promote and exercise.

Networks

The Department's other strong suit lies in its established diplomatic networks and relations. Canada counts of course on DFAIT to develop and maintain diplomatic relations with most countries, but it is a role which can be underestimated and under-valued. The standing of Canadian diplomatic