

Canada's 1995 study of the related requirements noted, "UN volunteers offer the best prospect of a completely reliable, well-trained rapid reaction capability. Without the need to consult national authorities, the UN could cut response times significantly, and volunteers could be deployed within hours of a Security Council decision."<sup>103</sup> "Ultimately", as the Government of Canada acknowledged, "a UN rapid reaction capability can be truly reliable only if it no longer depends on member states of the UN for the supply of personnel for peace operations."<sup>104</sup>

This idea has already attracted support. As the Commission on Global Governance reported in 1995, "the very existence of an immediately available and effective UN Volunteer Force could be a deterrent in itself. It could also give important support for negotiation and the peaceful settlement of disputes."<sup>105</sup> The Report of the Independent Working Group on the Future of the United Nations expressed its preference for a standing UN Volunteer Force to enhance the UN's performance in both time and function.<sup>106</sup> The Carnegie Commission reported that, "a standing force may well be necessary for effective prevention".<sup>107</sup>

This proposal attempts to demonstrate the approach and stages necessary to accelerate, and expand upon, recommendations contained in the 1995 Canadian study. It also builds on The Netherlands proposal for a Permanent UN Brigade and the Danish-led multinational initiative, which established the SHIRBRIG. The Netherlands study demonstrated that many of the technical obstacles are surmountable. The Danish study did not rule out permanently assigning military units to the UN, but acknowledged that it was a long-term option.<sup>108</sup>

As projected, a UN Standing Emergency Capability should also be compatible with the U.S. House of Representatives Bill 4453 submitted by Congressmen James McGovern and John Porter in May 2000.<sup>109</sup> This bill calls on the President to use America's "voice, vote and influence" to encourage the establishment of a UN Rapid Deployment Police and Security Force consisting of 6,000 international volunteers employed by the UN and under the authority of the Security Council. It is a thoughtful and courageous effort to address the 'time gap', the 'training gap' and the 'political will gap' with well-trained military and police units that can be deployed within 15 days of a Security Council resolution for up to six months, with the primary objective of containing a crisis and casualties until member states are ready to assume the task.

It is evident, moreover, that there are other options which share similar objectives. Over the past five years, there have been several noteworthy attempts to model the composition of a larger UN Legion.<sup>110</sup> After conducting a needs-analysis derived from a review of five UN operations, Carl