

The new challenges that have replaced the simple dichotomies of the Cold War are familiar to all of us:

- the fragility of new states and the tentativeness of democratic institutions;
- ethnic strife, nationalism and racism;
- proliferation of weapons of all sorts with ineffective control mechanisms;
- environmental abuse, and the devastation of entire regions around the globe; and
- the threat of mass migrations of political and economic refugees.

These challenges add up to an unpalatable menu facing our political leadership, and you'll be glad to know that I'm not going to dig into each of them this morning. What I do want to discuss is the Canadian framework for dealing with these issues, "co-operative security," because it is increasingly relevant to how others might manage their way in this puzzling new environment. There is no question in my mind that the involvement and co-operation of all nations is essential if we are to ensure long-term stability.

This view leads directly to Canada's strong and unequivocal commitment to the United Nations. Through its good times and bad -- and there have been plenty of the latter -- Canada has been steadfast in its view that the United Nations is the best vehicle for international progress toward stability. Other countries relied mainly on "hub and spoke" relationships during an era in which much of the world was aligned in blocs.

With the end of the Cold War, however, the UN has taken on new importance. Many states are now more willing to use multilateral institutions to address problems, more accepting of the Security Council and other UN bodies to debate and to decide on key issues of peace and security.

This change of positioning of the UN opens up enormous possibilities for its use as the central point for conflict management. The Secretary-General's *An Agenda for Peace* points the way forward by revitalizing and clarifying the UN's role in intervention. It also calls on member countries to demonstrate the political will to put the "Agenda" into action.

Canada played an important role in the development of this document. Much of it reflects not only our philosophy as a nation, but our long-term experience in multilateralism and peacekeeping.