

includes preventive diplomacy, the restoration and maintenance of peace, and the establishment of conditions for lasting peace.

The Secretary-General feels, and we agree, that the international community must play a more active role and become more involved in preventing and resolving conflicts. He also emphasizes the need to determine the extent to which the United Nations can respond to the growing number of conflict management requests with its limited resources. This last issue is fundamental to international peace and security.

Think about it. In the past five years, the United Nations has organized as many peacekeeping operations as it did in the first 42 years of its existence. And Canada has contributed resources in a manner well beyond our relative size as a country.

Consider, if you will, our participation in the mission in Yugoslavia. Our contribution has included the deployment of 2,400 soldiers, the admission and integration of 13,000 refugees; humanitarian assistance; diplomatic initiatives, such as the London Conference; the deployment of dozens of Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers; the human resources assigned to the area by my department; and the sending of observers.

While not all peacekeeping missions are as ambitious as the one in Yugoslavia, the fact remains that, given the growing number of requests for peacekeeping missions, Canada will have to come to terms with its human and financial limitations. We will have to make appropriate decisions about where and when we must intervene.

In short, while we would like to continue to respond to appeals from the United Nations as we have always done, is it still possible for us to do so?

The agencies of the United Nations have their own resource problems. Although the UN is being asked to meet more numerous and complex challenges, the organization does not have the means to assume greater responsibilities. As much as we may wish to support the ambitious new program of action of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as outlined in the "Agenda for Peace," we cannot ignore the fact that several member countries, including the United States, are putting this program at risk by not paying their contributions.

How can the UN assume responsibility for peace and security when members, including some members of the Security Council, neglect or refuse to assume their own financial responsibilities to the organization?

I was encouraged by President Bush's recognition of the usefulness of the United Nations peacekeeping initiatives.