

cooperation across a broad spectrum of humanitarian concerns. In particular, the coordination required to effectively mount a multilateral response to maritime disasters necessitates a high degree of ongoing consultation and cooperation among those involved in any multilateral regional search and rescue activities.

Many states have standing search and rescue agreements that outline common responsibilities and training procedures. For example, Canada has a search and rescue agreement with the US. In addition to its utility as a humanitarian gesture, the negotiation of such an agreement in the Middle East would enhance practical cooperation among the parties in the region on a daily basis.

Regional participants in the Middle East peace process include Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Israel, Jordan/Palestinian delegation, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Qatar, Yemen and the United Arab Emirates. In addition, Canada has invited the US, Russia, Australia, China, Japan and Turkey to send delegations to the Sydney workshop.

It is Canada's hope that the regional parties will leave Sydney with new perspectives on how they might develop maritime CBMs in the Middle East.

The United Nations: The Will to Reform

Following are excerpts from an address by External Affairs Minister Perrin Beatty to the Freedom Forum in Toronto on August 18.

It's hard to believe that it was only three years ago that we were celebrating the defeat of Communism and the end of the Cold War. The Iron Curtain has been drawn back, the Berlin Wall has fallen, the threat of nuclear Armageddon has given way to the promise of a new order, but we are left with a world that is as troubled as ever, and in some ways more troubled than ever before.

The world is no longer divided between two opposing camps facing each other in a nuclear stand-off. However, instead of enjoying an unprecedented era of peace, order and prosperity, we find ourselves struggling with the ugliest forms of nationalism, interethnic hatred and religious rivalries that have been released from their Cold War constraints.

The UN remains the single most important instrument we have for promoting peace, democracy and freedom.

Martin Jacques's excellent essay last month in *The Sunday Times* magazine, which was entitled "The End of Politics," pointed out the irony of how Communism may have lost the ideological struggle, but the West has lost its sense of unity and purpose.

The collapse of Communism did not leave the West unscathed, triumphant and unchallenged, as most expected in 1989. On the contrary, the demise of bipolarism has thrown the West into crisis. An overriding enemy provides a sense of purpose, helps to subordinate and discipline other potential conflicts, gives a clear moral framework, and furnishes a sense of identity. Without it, all these questions rise to the surface in a new way, begging answers that are novel and profound.

The images you deliver to our homes from Somalia, the former Yugoslavia, Cambodia and elsewhere, are a daily reminder that we have a long way to go before peace, order, freedom and respect for human rights become the rule rather than the exception.

As the Gulf War, the democratization of Cambodia, and the United Nations efforts in Bosnia demonstrate, the old divisions no longer stop the international community from responding to regional problems.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to introduce order where there is chaos, peace where there is conflict, and relief where there is pain and suffering. The challenge of our time is to match our abilities to that opportunity.

A large part of the answer lies in our multilateral institutions, especially the United Nations. While it was hobbled by the stalemate between the superpowers,

we could blame the UN's failings on the lack of fundamental consensus. We cannot do so now, when ideological schisms are behind us.

We have won a vital part of the struggle. What is needed today is the will to reform and the determination to finish the job. The UN remains the single most important instrument we have for promoting peace, democracy and freedom in the world. Surely no task is more important than to make it as effective as possible.

Let me talk first about how we can strengthen the UN's vital role in keeping the peace.

We all share in the benefits of peace. We all must share the responsibility for building and maintaining it. The two go hand-in-hand. No single state can or should be expected to serve as the world's policeman. The United States certainly should provide both moral leadership and material resources for peacekeeping. It has an indispensable role in revitalizing and strengthening the United Nations, as well as regional institutions, to prevent conflicts, to deal with them when they break out, to provide humanitarian relief, and to promote freedom and human rights.

In the long and troubled era since the end of World War II, America has accepted the burden of defending peace and freedom without succumbing to the temptation to once again turn inward to isolationism. Nor does it do so now, even when the greatest challenges to its global leadership are no longer military, but economic and social, and are often domestic instead of foreign.

All of us should be encouraged by the Clinton Administration's willingness to work in partnership with other members of the international community. Multilateralism can be frustrating, particularly when your country has long been asked to carry more than its fair share of the burden. Americans have every right to look to the rest of the world to do its part.

For that matter, so do we in Canada. Consider the fact that Canada's assessed contributions to the UN have grown from \$8 million to almost \$90 million annually. At one point last year, Canadians represented some 10 percent of forces involved in peacekeeping missions. Is it any wonder that we are also looking for other countries to pick up their fair share?

We believe in peacekeeping. We have had more experience with it than any other country in the world. With the third