

emerging crisis. Such an approach could form the basis for the establishment, over the longer term, of a UN Standing Force — an option that this study is also examining in detail.

In addition, we want to consider whether the possibility of setting up regional training and deployment centres might be feasible to further reduce reaction time and to encourage an active role for regional organizations in support of rapid reaction initiatives.

In order to gain the widest possible benefit from existing international expertise, including that of Canadians, an International Consultative Group of 30 well-known authorities from around the world has been formed. This Group, co-chaired by Sir Brian Urquhart and Nobel Laureate, Professor John Polanyi, comprises academics, accomplished diplomats, government officials and military officers from over 15 countries. Early next month we will be hosting an international conference, to include the members of the Group, where we will discuss these ideas further.

We look forward to announcing the conclusion of this study at the 50th General Assembly of the UN this September.

IMPROVING THE FUNCTIONING OF UN BODIES

Straddling Fish Stocks

We must look at ways of making the United Nations and all its institutions more effective. I would make the argument that Canada's concerns over straddling fish stocks are directly related to this point.

At a time when 70 per cent of the world's fisheries resources are overexploited, fully exploited or depleted, the international community must urgently come to grips with the need to exercise some control over far-too-common predatory practices.

You are no doubt aware of the recent confrontation between Canada and the European Union [EU], and more particularly the Spanish fishing fleet, over Greenland halibut, a straddling stock of the Newfoundland Grand Banks. The incidents that accompanied the dispute are to be deplored, but so are the effects of fishing practices that threaten the very existence of the last remaining commercial fish stock of the area.

At a time when we can see the emergence of a wide consensus on the necessity to conserve dwindling resources for the benefit of mankind, we must ensure through the development of international law that proper remedies are available in such circumstances. The United Nations Conference on Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, which resumes March 27, must recognize the urgency