Second, peacemaking. Peacemaking involves diplomatic action such as the London Conference on Yugoslavia to prevent or resolve conflicts. Some people tend to confuse this with enforcement.

Enforcement is military action, such as the Gulf War and the operation in Somalia, to enforce an end to a conflict without the consent of the parties involved.

Next is preventive diplomacy, which is diplomatic action to prevent disputes from turning into conflicts, such as our recent efforts in Kosovo. Another example is South Africa, where Canadians are part of a joint Commonwealth/UN effort to build confidence and trust among domestic parties who are trying to build a new post-apartheid South Africa.

Finally, the Agenda for Peace talks about peacebuilding. This is post-conflict action to build and support structures that help to prevent a recurrence of violence or conflict.

In our discussions about these approaches and the role Canada should play, we must address a number of developments and issues that may restrict our abilities to contribute to the peace process, now and in the future.

For example, there are now an unprecedented number of UN missions for peace, and others are possible under the aegis of regional organizations such as the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE).

Another factor, which must be kept in mind, is that peace missions today are riskier than ever. The classic precondition of a complete cease-fire has given way to new political realities in complex situations such as the former Yugoslavia and Somalia.

In many situations, we just cannot wait any longer for the beginnings of political settlement before acting, nor can we allow ourselves to be held hostage by factions that see no advantage in peace. Intervening without being invited by all parties to a dispute has made the job of attaining peace riskier, both politically and militarily.

The fact that such intervention is riskier does not make it less necessary or desirable. Sometimes, we must act to put an end to morally reprehensible practices. In other cases, we are trying to stop human rights abuses. At times, we also may wish to prevent localized conflicts from engulfing other countries or regions. But, no matter what the motive is, when troops are sent uninvited into a territory, the chances for injury or even death increase.

I assure you -- we approach this with no scales on our eyes and only after thorough analysis, particularly by our military.