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First, I suggested that the Secretary-General should make greater use of his authority to bring current or potential crisis situations to the attention of the Council and expand his "fact-finding capacity". As an example I welcome his very recent initiative to dispatch at short notice a specialist group to Iran to investigate the alleged use of chemical agents.

Second, I suggested that the Security Council should meet privately and informally with the Secretary-General to examine and perhaps avert crises. The Security Council has had a number of informal private discussions to examine possible changes in their procedures, but as yet nothing concrete has emerged. Member states, particularly the permanent members of the Council, must accept their responsibilities, but mustering the political will for change is difficult. We should seek every opportunity to help generate the necessary political commitment, as the Prime Minister's initiative is doing. In this respect I believe Canada should seek re-election to the Security Council before the end of the decade.

Third, I suggested that the Secretary-General be given increased staff and resources in support of his "good offices" role in the resolution of disputes. In particular, I personally offered to make available to the Secretary-General, as appropriate, information which we believe might assist him in dealing with conflicts. This offer of support was warmly received.

The UN Secretary-General has made clear to the Prime Minister and me that he is looking particularly to Canada for help in revitalizing the UN system. We shall soon have an opportunity to continue our dialogue when the Secretary-General is able to accept our invitation to visit Ottawa.

Since 1945, active support of the UN system has been a cornerstone of Canadian foreign policy. A hard-headed assessment of current Canadian interests confirms that support. A stronger UN is necessary if we are to meet successfully the growing crisis of multilateralism in international affairs.