

Summary:

**Tony Anderson, Regional Security and Peacekeeping Division, Department of Foreign Affairs**

Mr. Anderson explained that in some quarters, there is a strong perception that Canada continues to be a world leader in UN peacekeeping. In others, however, there is a competing perception that this country has stepped away from its peacekeeping role and moved towards a war-fighting role and a preference for NATO. Mr. Anderson noted that some now say Canada only ranks 39<sup>th</sup> in UN peacekeeping with only 200 troops in UN operations. This is misleading and it does not help. The reality is that Canada is in the process of adapting its policy to fit the new and greatly changed international security environment.

Mr. Anderson argued that making a distinction between UN and non-UN peacekeeping missions was useless. Countries should be commended on peacekeeping work regardless of which organization is in charge. As he noted, we are proud of the UN flag and proud of the work we do in other coalitions. We do not see why Canadians are unhappy by Canada choosing to go elsewhere. Mr. Anderson cited a list of challenges currently facing peacekeeping missions:

- In order to avoid being discredited, the UN should not launch a mission unless it is effectively resourced. This leads to problem of getting rich countries, like the United States, to fund expensive operations.
- There is a fear of sending peacekeepers on missions to Africa due to pragmatic concerns regarding AIDS and the lack of a clean blood supply.
- There is a lack of political commitment
- Peacekeepers are increasingly facing unorthodox armed forces, including thugs and child soldiers; many do not have the skills to deal with these non-traditional combatants.
- The brutality of current conflicts makes it is difficult to comprehend “what goes on in these countries”.
- The United States and Canada are now obliged to commit significant funds to the War on Terror. This is contributing to previously mentioned problem of overstretch.