

We have addressed what we believe to be the number one priority: to help those who have been expelled by warfare and to counter the ignominious practice of "ethnic cleansing."

First and foremost, we must ensure that people receive food, medicine and shelter. But we must also deal with the social and emotional legacies of war.

In December 1992, and again last Friday, I announced a specific grant to assist the victims of sexual violence. Canadians have been outraged by the rape and sexual assault of women and children in this war. The victims of these repugnant crimes require our urgent assistance. Both the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, the Honourable Mary Collins, and myself indicated on Friday that Canada will provide a further \$1.5 million to address these needs. Our contribution will help the UNHCR and UNICEF provide women and children with medical supplies, rape-trauma counselling services, food, clothing and shelter.

Today, I am pleased to announce a further contribution of \$9.5 million in response to the ongoing international appeals. We will help the World Food Program, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and UNICEF continue their activities.

This new contribution underlines Canada's continuing concern for those who are suffering. By channelling our assistance through these established agencies, we know that we are addressing identified shortages. We know that our contribution will be directed to and received by those most in need.

As this House knows, the Canadian Forces are present on the ground in Bosnia as part of the United Nations Protection Force. Our troops, a battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment, have already begun the task of ensuring safe delivery of humanitarian assistance in Eastern Bosnia. Our Forces have also brought large quantities of food and medical supplies by air to Sarajevo during more than 354 missions. Our men and women operate under the most hazardous of conditions with great commitment and bravery, and they are a credit to all Canadians.

The Americans have chosen to drop supplies from the air, to reach villages isolated for months from any relief. This is a commendable initiative that will supplement what is being done by land. We fully support them in their efforts.

But we know that humanitarian assistance by itself will never be enough. Canada will continue to explore all means for bringing a quick and lasting end to this tragedy.

We cannot allow the world to disintegrate once again into the basest forms of inhumanity. We must take the lessons of this century and put an end, once and for all, to the festering hatreds that continue to fuel the fires of war in the former Yugoslavia.