

resignation of the Prime Minister, but the authorities were able to allow the Conference to proceed as planned. At the Conference, we heard a dramatic appeal by the President for an international judicial inquiry into the assassination of President Ndadaye. For the time being, extremist elements have apparently succeeded in rendering inoperative the September 10 government convention. The problem stems to a large extent from those political leaders who are determined to seize power through confrontation, extortion, intimidation and the use of militias. These hotheads are employing the entire array of terrorist methods. The most recent example of their extremism was the assassination of the Minister of Energy and Mines, barely 12 days ago. This moderate leader visited Canada last December.

As you can see, Canada has not remained indifferent to the suffering of the people in this region. It has contributed \$35 million in emergency assistance to Rwanda through UN agencies, the Red Cross and Canadian NGOs (27 per cent of the total), and has approved a \$40-million bilateral co-operation program, \$3 million of which has already been spent. The Canadian response to this humanitarian challenge took the form of a joint effort on the part of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, CIDA, and the Department of National Defence, in addition to the equally important initiatives of our NGOs and the Canadian public, which has provided more than \$16 million in private donations.

In my view, only concerted action on the part of all parties involved can make a substantial contribution to finding a lasting solution for the entire region. In regard to Burundi in particular, I would like to quote the opinion of Ambassador Abdallah in his efforts to keep the situation under control. He said that "it is necessary for the international community, and especially the five permanent members of the Security Council, to assume their responsibilities toward this country, which has been living in a state of permanent crisis since the assassination of President Melchior Ndadaye in October 1993." In this regard, it should be remembered that the Security Council conducted a mission to Rwanda and Burundi last month and is continuing to follow the situation very closely.

The international community is well aware of the potential for disaster in Burundi and has taken the steps I have described to encourage Burundi's politicians to settle their differences constructively and peacefully. The international community, as represented by the UN, cannot impose peace and security - it can only respond at the invitation of governments. For instance, after the coup attempt the UN offered peacekeeping services but these were refused by both the government and the military. Most regrettably, too many of Burundi's political and military leaders assign a higher priority to vendettas and tribal agendas than they do to the national interest. Without the unstinting collaboration of Burundians themselves, outsiders cannot help them in their search for solutions in their country.

Thank you.