

participated in the invasion had done so from the beginning, we would not be here today debating this tragic event.

But the resolution is incomplete. It looks largely at what has happened and does not trace out the path ahead. A country has been invaded. Its political, economic and social life has been seriously shaken. The international community has a responsibility to help repair the damage. For the people of Grenada, the first priority is the full re-establishment of constitutional government and the resumption of the economic development of their country. That must be our priority as well and should have been reflected in the resolution.

The resolution correctly requires that all foreign troops should withdraw. But the international community has a larger responsibility to the people of Grenada not to leave them to pick up the pieces alone, or without adequate assistance. The Belgian amendment was a useful addition in this regard.

Normally it might be expected that the United Nations Secretary-General would be asked to fill this gap by providing United Nations assistance to Grenada in helping in the efforts to restore sovereignty to its people and in reconstructing the country. Whether or not this proves possible, Canada, along with other members, are considering what measures the Commonwealth can take to assist Grenada through the difficult months ahead, and particularly to see what it could do to help Grenada hold free and fair elections. Such assistance would be compatible with the United Nations Charter. Indeed, if this occurs, we would ask the United Nations Secretary-General to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth in providing advice and guidance based on the United Nations' experience with such activities.

Mr. President, I have outlined Canada's position on the military intervention in Grenada. I have made it clear that, from this point on, our primary concern must be the future of a country badly bruised by the events of recent weeks. The resolution in document L-8 addressed itself in generally satisfactory form to what has happened but was deficient on many of the responsibilities and challenges that await us. We also consider that an opportunity should have been provided for us all to debate this important matter.

It was for these reasons, Mr. President, that Canada abstained on this draft resolution.