

multipurpose, combat-capable force remains effective and sustainable. The Government has a duty to ensure the well-being of the men and women who undertake these challenging and at times risky missions.

Canada's forces are currently deployed to essential tasks in Bosnia and Afghanistan, as well as elsewhere. Canada currently has 1200 Canadian Forces personnel deployed to the NATO-led Stabilisation Force (SFOR) in Bosnia-Herzegovina and 1900 to the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Kabul, Afghanistan. Our allies are counting on us to live up to these commitments, which leaves Canada with little flexibility for substantial new deployments until the end of 2004. A Canadian drawdown in these regions would require another country to make up the difference.

Recommendation 5.3

The Sub-Committee calls on the government to intensify its efforts to reach agreement in the United Nations and through other multilateral channels to act immediately and forcefully to bring an end to the fighting in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to start a massive humanitarian relief effort and to commit the international community to play its part in achieving long-term stability and development in the region.

The first prerequisite to ending the violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is a functional, transition government of national unity. Canada will continue its support of the transition as a member of the International Committee in Support of the Transition (ICST) and through the activities of Canada's Special Envoy for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Great Lakes (Marc-André Brault). The Special Envoy has been a deciding factor in Canada's policy towards the DRC, helping to create the necessary conditions for peace and laying the groundwork for a better coordination within the international community in support of the peace process. Canada's Special Envoy will continue to support international efforts to resolve the difficult problems in the DRC.

The UN Secretary General has appointed Maurice Baril (a retired Canadian general) to work with the UN Special Representative and Congolese parties to find a solution to the problem of reorganizing the armed forces. The June 29, 2003 agreement on this issue removed the last barrier to setting up the transition government, which took place on July 19. This should contribute greatly to a return of peace and stability in the DRC, and by extension, the entire region. This Congolese government will have to lead the country into its first democratic elections within two or three years.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) will continue to play an important role in Canada's support. Since 1998, CIDA has spent over \$80 million in the DRC, including a