

against attack on Alliance members from the countries in the East. Today, the countries of the East look to NATO for security from attacks by each other or from ethnic and nationalist violence occurring from the break-up of the Soviet Empire. We trust that our common commitments to the principles of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) -- democracy, peaceful settlement of disputes and, above all, the legal acceptance and tolerant treatment of minorities -- will be a formula for peace. But, if there is a need to resolve conflicts through peacekeeping, all of Europe welcomes the application of NATO's unique abilities to provide real resources and expertise. In Oslo, NATO agreed to consider just such CSCE requests. In my view, this could well prevent Yugoslav-type tragedies from occurring in the future.

Canada was one of the originators of the concept of peacekeeping. Since the 1950s, Canada has served in virtually all UN peacekeeping operations. Canadians now serve around the world -- in the Middle East, Cyprus, Central America and Europe -- and are slated as well for Cambodia.

The most important test of the effectiveness of peacekeeping is the length and strength of the peace once the peacekeepers have gone. Our troops have been with the UN peacekeeping force in Cyprus for 28 years. Twenty-eight years: clearly this is not a model for peacekeeping.

The absence of peace must not be allowed to contaminate the relations between new generations of old rivals.

I have just visited Cyprus and discussed the situation there with its president and with my colleagues in Ankara and Athens. I said that unless there is progress on a solution Canada would withdraw its forces. I can report that there is some progress.

Over the next two months, a set of ideas will be discussed among leaders to establish the basis for peace without peacekeepers. Because of this positive development, Canada will not completely withdraw its forces this year. But we must take this opportunity to force the search for a definitive settlement of a longstanding grievance, one that has gone on for far too long.

While in Cyprus I had the privilege of visiting the Canadian battalion assigned to peacekeeping duties in Nicosia. I also had a chance to visit the troops on duty and in their barracks in the Nicosia buffer zone. I am pleased to report that the high degree of professionalism they display is recognized and appreciated by all sides. All Canadians should be proud of their actions and the honour that they bring to our country.

But the risk of conflict in the world in the coming years remains real. Our challenge will be to make the UN and regional