

with more and more numerous and complex challenges. Today, we face a world that is unstable, uncertain and dangerous.

One has only to consider Central and Eastern Europe, which is increasingly divided, where we deplore the brutal consequences of rampant xenophobia and nationalism, where thousands of men, women and children are victims of the vicious circle of settling scores that are sometimes centuries old, and where the international community will be called upon to assist tens and even hundreds of thousands of new refugees.

But Central and Eastern Europe is far from being the only example. Think of Africa, not just Somalia, but several other countries, including Sudan and Angola. Think of Asia, especially the unstable and uncertain situation in Cambodia.

In view of all these complex and explosive situations, it would be irresponsible, even immoral, to turn our backs and to say that we have already done our share. It would also be foolish to think that we can continue to rely on traditional approaches to intervention and peacekeeping. One thing is certain. Canada will remain faithful to the principles of collective security, good government and human rights, and multilateral co-operation.

Every Canadian benefits from the restoration and maintenance of peace for three basic reasons:

- Millions of Canadian jobs and our prosperity depend on a stable and peaceful international community where foreign trade can be conducted without interruption or obstacle, and where the rule of law exists.
- In very practical terms, foreign conflicts can spread and involve Canada and its allies. History offers us many examples of conflicts where the international community could have avoided disaster by intervening in a more timely and effective manner.
- In terms of our values as Canadians, there is nothing more important than giving every person the opportunity to develop and achieve his or her own ambitions in total peace and freedom. Peacekeeping is one of the means available to the international community to promote such conditions.

In other words, adhering to fundamental principles is in our best interests. That is the reason we support the thrust of the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations entitled "Agenda for Peace."

In his report, the Secretary-General goes beyond traditional notions of peacekeeping. He proposes an ambitious approach that