

investments are being made in emergency assistance for refugees and the displaced. The Special Court and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) will also require funding. Most of this spending necessarily deals with symptoms rather than causes of the problem. It is essential that when the conflict ends adequate resources be available to address the root cause of the problem. Ongoing financial support for good governance and long-term economic development are absolutely vital if the enormous investment in peacekeeping and emergency assistance is to bear fruit. If, after the emergency abates, Sierra Leone becomes a neglected donor backwater once again, the chances of a return to violence will be high.

The forthcoming elections needs special attention as does the objectives and requirements of the Special Court, the TRC, the Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) and the Commonwealth Police Task Force (CPTF). Sierra Leonean civil society will also play a critical role in the post war reconciliation, capacity building and development.

Sierra Leone has a tremendous need for long-term, meaningful development assistance and this report makes the case for a greater Canadian commitment. It suggests bringing Canada's developmental efforts in Sierra Leone into line with other Canadian aid programs in the region. It concludes with comments and recommendations on regional matters that will require attention before the security of any one country can be assured.