

THE MUNICH ECONOMIC SUMMIT

JULY 6-8, 1992



SOMMET ÉCONOMIQUE DE MUNICH

6-8 JUILLET 1992

Peacekeeping

At the Munich Summit, Canada intends to discuss the increasing and evolving role peacekeeping is playing in conflict management in the post-Cold War period, with the objective of achieving a clear commitment that the growing demands for peacekeeping will be effectively met.

Peacekeeping and peacemaking are essential to strengthening the role of the United Nations and regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security. Peacekeeping is often the last resort in dealing with communal tensions and violence, which have the potential to escalate into broader and more dangerous international conflicts.

Peacekeeping is not an end in itself, but is an important mechanism that supports the peaceful management of conflict through political means. It is best used to create or maintain conditions that permit a negotiated settlement and, to be effective, must be tied to a political process with an established timetable.

Since 1948, Canada has participated wholeheartedly in UN peacekeeping operations. It has contributed troops to every UN peacekeeping mission and currently supplies some 2,200 troops to 10 missions around the world. The leading role Canada is playing in the current UN operations in the Balkans is the most recent example of its commitment.

The rapidly changing international situation is placing new demands on peacekeeping. With communal and ethnic violence within states the major security problem today, there is a need to engage in preventive diplomacy supported by preventive peacekeeping. Peacekeeping responsibilities need to be more broadly shared by all states, including the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

The UN secretary general's report, An Agenda for Peace, provides a basis for much-needed discussion on these issues. The report on peacemaking and peacekeeping is ambitious and far-sighted; it offers ways of dealing with the global proliferation of ethnic conflict. In this endeavour, the secretary general will need assurance from the G-7 that it is ready to provide both the political support and material resources to implement agreed-upon recommendations.

It is clear that the international community is prepared to become increasingly active in defending human rights and basic human needs. Canada's extensive peacekeeping experience qualifies it to play a leading role in launching a new era in peacekeeping.



CANADA