

On conventional arms

- the convening of a meeting of the major arms exporters to encourage a formal commitment to ensure greater sensitivity in the export of conventional arms. This could include greater transparency and agreement to consult about situations where unusual build-ups seem to be developing;
- early action on an arms transfer information-exchange system, including serious examination by all countries of the recommendations of the UN Experts Group now studying arms transfer transparency (to be submitted for consideration at this fall's General Assembly); and
- a politically-binding commitment by the 22 signatories of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) to ensure that arms affected by that accord are not exported to regions of tension or conflict. While the Treaty obligates signatories to destroy or irreversibly convert to civilian use any equipment reduced under its terms, we are concerned about equipment in Europe not directly limited by the Treaty, equipment outside the Treaty's zone of application, equipment disposed of before the Treaty enters into force, and equipment below the Treaty-allowed level but above what a country wishes to keep.

In addition to the global measures listed above, it is clear that regionally-based measures will have to be pursued. Proliferation will be inevitable as long as the underlying factors that motivate weapons acquisition remain in play. To be effective, efforts towards proliferation control will have to proceed in tandem with efforts to arrive at solutions to regional conflicts, including — most probably — regional arms control agreements.

The choice to opt for security at lower levels of armament is a complex one. Canada is actively encouraging suppliers and recipients to take the steps necessary to halt the spread of weapons of mass destruction, to curtail the excessive acquisition of conventional arms, and to promote the construction of a durable peace in the Middle East and elsewhere. ■

Canada and the Challenges of the Post-War Period in the Gulf

The following are excerpts from a speech delivered by the Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, at a luncheon hosted by the Canadian Institute of International Affairs in Quebec City on February 8.

The forceful occupation of the territory of a United Nations member is unacceptable and violates the basic principles of the international order. Faced with the invasion of Kuwait, the international community had certain options, one of which was inaction and passivity. This would have been an unpardonable abdication, the acceptance of the outmoded notion of the power of the strong over the weak. An immediate, unilateral counter-strike by a limited number of countries would have amounted to a small group of countries appropriating the role of world policeman. These options were both unacceptable and would both have had disastrous consequences for the future of world relations.

With wisdom but not without some reticence, the community of states resolved to resort wholly to the United Nations to face this threat to its collective security. This was a great victory for the UN system and for countries like Canada, which have based their diplomacy on the construction of a credible, effective multilateral system. Rarely have such unanimity and such determination been shown within the Security Council, and with the support of the vast majority of UN members. Let us not forget that countries as disparate as Pakistan and Argentina, Senegal and Bulgaria, Australia and Spain have played an active part in the 29-country coalition established to apply the sanctions.

The diplomatic community has never, in the modern era, seen such a feverish and intense period as that between last August and mid-January. Every available means was sought to obtain the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait. The disappointing and painful recourse to force is the result of our having reached the limits of diplomacy — not the absence of efforts to apply it. The blame for this failure can be placed squarely on the shoulders of the Iraqi President.

Why, you might ask, were the sanctions not prolonged? The answer is simple: we tried, but we had to face facts — sanctions could not succeed where diplomacy had



Soldiers such as Canadian Forces Corporal Susan Lefebvre, shown here downloading an AIM-7 air-to-air missile from a CF-18 in Qatar, are entitled to expect politicians to do everything possible to prevent us from finding ourselves in such straits in the future.

Canadian Forces photo by Sgt. Ed Dixon