

fundamental to statehood, to international discourse, and, of course, to the United Nations itself.

The current conflict in Yugoslavia is, however, more than an internal affair. A collapse of effective governmental authority in Yugoslavia, if it continues, could escalate the degree of civil strife and endanger peace and security in neighbouring countries. So, the concept of sovereignty must respect higher principles, including the need to preserve human life from wanton destruction.

That is why Canada has asked the Security Council to consider the situation in Yugoslavia. On matters of peace and security, the Council speaks for all of us. Its actions carry the weight and authority of the entire world community. We believe that it can and should add that weight and authority to the efforts of the European Community and to the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe to bring about a peaceful, negotiated solution.

Should it be decided that a United Nations peacekeeping operation would contribute to such a solution, I want to assure you that Canada will do its part, as we have done numerous times in the past when duty and obligation to the promotion of peace and stability are clear.

Mr. President, events within this Organization over the past year have been ground-breaking. Ordinary Canadians have been active players in these events, and we have participated with enthusiasm and energy as the UN has lived up to its Charter mandate. Canadians supported UN action in the Persian Gulf. They supported our country's participation in the efforts to restore Kuwaiti sovereignty because they recognized that fundamental international principles were at stake. But they would not have supported these actions without the clear authority of the United Nations Security Council.

Now, those same Canadians want us to build an even more effective UN, one that is able to work for comprehensive security everywhere, based on the international rule of law. The need to build such an overriding security framework is a central lesson of the events of the past year.

I believe, Mr. President, that we must look beyond a system which only inhibits armed confrontations. I believe that we need a new definition of the concept of multilateral security, a definition that takes into account the new and varied threats to global peace and security. These include the depletion of the ozone layer, the degradation of our seas, the debilitating scourge of illicit drugs, and worldwide epidemics such as AIDS, mass exodus of people from one country to another, and the desperate poverty which persists in many parts of the world.