

the circumstances. But still, the violence, the senseless killing, goes on. We must surely, then, contemplate other steps.

We know an important deterrent to criminal acts of any sort is the sure knowledge that perpetrators will be prosecuted, reviled and punished. In the former Yugoslavia, however, authorities are despised as lacking the ability or the will to confront these perpetrators, or as incapable of conducting trials of the perpetrators effectively and impartially.

Accordingly, at the London Peace Conference last August, Canada called for the establishment of an international tribunal to bring to justice those who violated the most fundamental of international humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia. We were joined in this call by other members of the London Conference, who agreed to "take all possible legal action to bring to account those responsible for committing or ordering grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions." At last, the consensus necessary to establish an international court to prosecute those accused of international crimes is finally emerging. The need for a permanent international criminal court has become more obvious in the face of the growing need to respond urgently to these and other crimes, and to the demands of world public opinion for concrete action.

At the forty-seventh session of the UN General Assembly, I called for the drafting of a statute by the International Law Commission to establish an international criminal court. The potential long-term deterrent effect of such a body could be considerable. However, at the General Assembly, it became discouragingly clear that this could not be realized in the immediate future, and that the court's role in dealing with Yugoslavia-related war crimes would be marginal. Surely, the situation in the Balkans demands more urgent action.

Consequently, I have strongly advocated the establishment of an ad hoc tribunal for offences committed in the former Yugoslavia.

At the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) ministerial meeting in Stockholm last December, I called on my counterparts to acknowledge the principle of personal accountability for international offences, and to endorse the creation of a tribunal to bring this principle into effect.

The idea of establishing an international tribunal for the former Yugoslavia has been steadily gaining momentum since that time. One month ago today, the Security Council decided to establish a tribunal for the prosecution of those responsible for serious violations of humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia. While the Security Council Resolution does not contain details for the institutional framing of the tribunal -- composition, procedures, location, jurisdiction -- it does require the Secretary-General