

criticize the UN. But, much of the blame for the failures of the Organization lies with the Member States themselves, who do not provide it with the tools needed for success. These tools are never needed more than when crisis erupts.

Last year, I discussed the problems the UN has encountered in mobilizing its peace operations to respond to crises. Canada's long experience with peacekeeping has convinced us that improvements are possible. The international community's slow response to the horrible and deeply distressing events in Rwanda was very much on my mind. It was in this context that I announced that Canada would examine ways to improve the capacity of the UN to react quickly to such events.

Today, I have the honour of presenting to this Assembly, Canada's report, entitled *Towards a Rapid Reaction Capability for the United Nations*, as a special Canadian contribution to the United Nations during its 50th anniversary year. It presents practical proposals to enhance the UN's rapid reaction capability in the field of peace operations. I believe the proposals will both help save lives and conserve scarce resources.

The report expresses the views of the Government of Canada, but considerable care was taken to consult with other governments, non-governmental organizations and inter-governmental institutions. We are also deeply grateful to the many experts who lent us their time and wisdom.

The main proposal of the report is the "Vanguard Concept." This concept would permit the UN to assemble, from Member States, a multi-functional force of up to 5 000 military and civilian personnel and, with the authorization of the Security Council, quickly deploy it under the control of an operational-level headquarters. This operational headquarters would be responsible for the advance preparations that are crucial if rapid reaction is to work. Forces would be provided under enhanced standby arrangements with Member States. Our other proposals seek to enhance training, to create more efficient logistics and transportation, and to strengthen the planning efforts of the entire UN system. None of the report's 26 recommendations require Charter reform.

But the search for immediate, practical solutions must not preclude more visionary possibilities. In this regard, the report looks at longer-term questions, such as advanced technologies in support of the UN's peace operations, the feasibility of a permanent group of civilian police, the idea of a UN Standing Emergency Group, and the question of independent sources of revenue for the UN system.

I believe the report's recommendations, if implemented, will strengthen the UN's capacity for more rapid, effective and