

AND WILL COOPERATE FULLY WITH UNIFIL SO THAT THE UN FORCE CAN FULFILL THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF ITS MANDATE: "TO CONFIRM THE WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES, RESTORE INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY AND ASSIST THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON IN ENSURING THE RETURN OF ITS EFFECTIVE AUTHORITY IN THE AREA".

I AM SURE CANADIANS RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CONTRIBUTION WE ARE ALREADY MAKING TO PEACEKEEPING. IT IS A FIELD IN WHICH CANADIAN FORCES HAVE A PROUD TRADITION. WE HAVE BEEN PIONEERS AND HAVE SEEN PEACEKEEPING AS ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE OPERATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS. I KNOW THAT CANADIANS AS A WHOLE SHARE MY PRIDE IN THE ROLES WE HAVE ALREADY UNDERTAKEN. I KNOW TOO THAT CANADIANS RECOGNIZE AND SUPPORT OUR WILLINGNESS TO RESPOND TO AN URGENT REQUEST FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL IN THE MANNER WE HAVE. WE ATTACH THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE TO THE SUCCESS OF UN PEACEKEEPING ACTIVITIES. WITH THIS DECISION TO PARTICIPATE TEMPORARILY IN UNIFIL THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO DO ITS PART IN ENSURING THE SUCCESS OF ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT PEACEKEEPING VENTURES THE UN HAS UNDERTAKEN. IT IS A CHALLENGE WE CAN AND SHOULD ACCEPT.