

It is not our intention to impose a universal model on all developing countries. Nor is it our intention to withhold assistance until countries have established perfect internal systems. Of course we recognize that the process is evolutionary and incremental.

But can the world community show absolute inertia, inaction, even indifference, as was the case in the 1970s when the Khmer Rouge were ravaging Cambodia?

Can we allow countries like Somalia to deteriorate to such a point that they become structureless, lawless, hopeless groups of people whose only commonality is lines drawn on a map of the world?

The Gulf War made famous the image of "drawing a line in the sand." For many Canadians, this idea and the idea of war in general are abhorrent. While we are valiant in war and have come to the defence of freedom and democracy on many occasions during this century, we do not glorify war or measure our international stature by our ability to wage or win wars.

We are justly proud of the men and women who have served in the Canadian Armed Forces through two world wars, in Korea and the Persian Gulf, and in more than four decades of peacekeeping activities. Every year on November 11, right across Canada, we pay tribute to all those who have died serving this country and all that it represents.

But Canadians are profoundly uncomfortable with war. That is why we have placed such an emphasis on what the Secretary-General has called "post-conflict peacebuilding."

Today's peacekeepers must operate on a number of fronts at the same time in order to ensure more stable and humanitarian conditions in a country. In addition to providing troops for ongoing traditional peacekeeping operations in such places as the former Yugoslavia and the Middle East, Canada has sent Royal Canadian Mounted Police to Croatia, election observers to Angola, and human rights experts to El Salvador and Cambodia. I will also be sending representatives to a Commonwealth inspection team that will work in conjunction with a UN team to monitor racial tensions in South Africa.

Clearly, building the peace and keeping the peace require much more than theoretical notions sketched out by politicians, diplomats and academics. They need some philosophical and moral basis as well, and I made it absolutely clear to the General Assembly that we in Canada feel fully justified in bringing forward our ideas on the internal workings of other countries, because we have been absolutely transparent in the process of our own constitutional renewal.