

interest to Canadians. My Deputy Minister, Gordon Smith, and Louise Fréchette of Finance have already spoken to you about the Summit. However, I would like to share some of my thoughts on the Summit with you.

We want to ensure that the international institutions can meet the challenges of the 21st century. As I noted in my speech to the United Nations last fall, we must look for ways to eliminate the overlap of responsibilities and streamline the operations of the international financial institutions and the United Nations.

Such a review of international financial institutions could assist the poorest countries, notably in Africa, by ensuring that increasingly limited aid resources are targeted effectively. Exactly how this should be done is a critical question. Your visit to Washington will be helpful in putting forward new ideas for consideration as we prepare for the Summit. I look forward to hearing the results of your visit.

I also look forward to discussions in Halifax on political issues. Some topics that may be discussed are the reform of the UN and the management of international conflicts and tensions, non-proliferation and "global issues" such as migration and refugees, and terrorism. We will also discuss issues that are current at the time of the Summit. These are difficult to predict but could include the former Yugoslavia, the Middle East, and Rwanda.

THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

Allow me now, if you will, to make some comments on the latest developments in the former Yugoslavia.

Above all, the situation remains volatile.

There is a real possibility, especially in Bosnia, that fighting will resume in the spring.

As you know, the Croat government announced in January that it would not extend the mandate of UNPROFOR [United Nations Protection Force] beyond March 31 and that UN forces would have to pull out before the end of June.

Following his meeting in Copenhagen last Sunday with the U.S. Vice President, Croat President Tudjman announced that he is now prepared to reconsider a continued UN troop presence in Croatia. Canada welcomes this announcement.

Indeed, as the Prime Minister explained to a delegation of Croatian Parliamentarians last month, Canada believes that the decision to end the mandate of UNPROFOR in Croatia is a grave error that risks engendering wider conflict.