

in peacekeeping to help the UN improve its rapid reaction capabilities. The tragic events in Rwanda have forced us to ask some serious questions. Why is it that for three weeks Canada was the only country maintaining an airlift to Kigali, while the Secretary-General of the United Nations was trying to organize a United Nations mission? Would not a rapid and measured response by the United Nations have saved the lives of thousands of men, women and children?

These questions and many others prompted our country to undertake a study of how the UN's rapid reaction capabilities could be upgraded. Last week, I had the honour of tabling the results of our study in the United Nations General Assembly in New York. We identified three principles that should guide the UN in its efforts to create a genuine rapid reaction force.

First, we believe that proper preparation for a mission is an absolute necessity. We therefore propose that an operational headquarters be created. It would be responsible for preliminary preparations, which are critical to the success of a rapid reaction operation.

Second, the UN should have stand-by forces placed at its disposal by member states, under the terms of prior arrangements made with those states.

Third, we believe it is essential to maintain and indeed upgrade the training of these forces, improve logistics and transport, and to improve planning throughout the UN system.

This multi-purpose force, which would consist of up to 5000 soldiers and civilians from member states, could be deployed rapidly with the authorization of the Security Council. Obviously, once deployed, it would remain under the command of the operational headquarters.

We must restore the international community's confidence in the United Nations and its ability to respond rapidly to crises. I believe these recommendations will help, provided of course that they are acted upon.

Last week, when I was in New York, I had discussions with foreign colleagues who share our concerns. We met to discuss a common approach and I was highly encouraged by the degree of co-operation among us.

However, preventive diplomacy alone is not enough to secure peace. Rapid reaction alone cannot guarantee peace. Peace is a complex ensemble which must be built one element at a time. Its true foundation is human security.