

The war in the former Yugoslavia seems to be unparalleled in terms of the complexity of the political, economic and ethnic forces involved. It continues to severely challenge the international community and we continue to search for effective ways of responding to this crisis.

We must cut to the very root of this tragedy. We must bring this war to an end. We must stop further bloodshed. We must convince all parties involved that the use of force will lead nowhere. The parties must realize that they will have to live side by side after this is over. They must realize that no peace can be brought about by the imposition of military might.

Intense negotiations have taken place in New York over the past several days. These are expected to resume toward the end of this week. They show signs that at least some of the parties are seriously interested in a negotiated settlement. Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance have produced over the months, and with much dedication, a comprehensive package. This should form the basis of new political, security and territorial arrangements for Bosnians. This is the only proposal available to the parties and they must all negotiate seriously on this basis.

We have been active with the parties, urging them to find a meaningful and fair compromise. This is precisely the message that our Ambassador to the UN delivered to Dr. Karadzic, on my instructions, last Friday. Any party that stands in the way of a political compromise will face further international condemnation and isolation. We are ready to do whatever we can to help the difficult search for peace.

That includes, of course, the provision of humanitarian assistance until this horrifying and tragic war is ended. Canadians continue to demonstrate their solidarity and their compassion for those who have been forced to suffer all forms of human degradation -- and our government will continue to provide support for these unfortunate people.

To channel this humanitarian assistance, we have chosen to utilize international relief organizations. We have disbursed over \$25 million through the United Nations and other organizations. The UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization, World Food Program, UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs, UN Volunteers, International Committee of the Red Cross, and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have been our agents.

We have intentionally chosen to let those with expertise and objectivity assess the requirements. We have consistently told these organizations that our intention is to help those most in need with what they most urgently require.

We know this is not sufficient. We know that governments and public institutions in the region are barely capable of coping with hundreds of thousands of refugees and displaced persons. The economies of these countries have suffered greatly.