GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

banking facilities and other financial institutions and from receiving funding from international financial institutions.

These recommendations were made to the Security Council which noted in its resolution 1457 (2003) that the Panel was to follow up with a view to verifying, reinforcing and/or clearing the names of those mentioned in the report. As an initial point, it would be premature for Canada to start imposing sanctions until this follow up work is completed.

In addition, as the United Nations Security Council is seized of the situation in the DRC, including the peace process, and is assessing the various tools for promoting peace such as peacekeepers and the possibility of imposing targeted sanctions against individuals and companies named in the Panel's reports, Canada should not try to pre-empt or prejudge the decision of the Security Council as to the appropriate tools and timing for their use to achieve a peaceful solution. Therefore, in this situation, Canada should defer to the Security Council and await its decision on the imposition of sanctions rather than acting unilaterally.

Recommendation 5.2

The Sub-Committee urges the government to seriously consider contributing a significant contingent of troops and police to the United Nations security force in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where Canada's expertise in peacekeeping and post-conflict rebuilding and our good reputation in the region would allow us to make a substantial contribution to resolving the crisis. The Sub-Committee understands that this may have implication for Canada's involvement in other multilateral efforts, but believe that the urgency and magnitude of this humanitarian crisis must make it a priority for the government.

The Government is presently not considering a further significant military contribution to the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC). However, the Government is considering the feasibility of a non-military contribution.

Canada is providing seven military staff officers to MONUC and most recently provided tactical airlift support (two C-130 aircraft) to the Interim Emergency Multinational Force for Bunia to address the continued fighting in the Ituri province.

Canada deploys approximately 4500 troops on international operations throughout the world, representing an estimated 25% of the combat capability of the Canadian Forces – among the highest deployment ratios of all our NATO allies. The high operational tempo of the Canadian Forces over the past twelve years has placed a premium on the need to allow our soldiers to recuperate and to retrain for subsequent missions to ensure that the capacity of the Canadian Forces to provide a