

A simple re-commitment to the Charter is not enough. Member States must actively work together to strengthen the U.N. system. The Secretary-General has expressed the hope that, in all our countries, our best thinkers will turn their talents to this task. Let us seize this challenge and give it focus.

An unprecedented conference of 35 leading Canadians, sponsored by the United Nations Association in Canada, will take place October 26 in Ottawa to launch a review of ways to strengthen the U.N. Our Prime Minister and Government believe that Canadian parliamentarians should also consider this question and present formal recommendations.

How can we translate the results of this soul-searching, in each of our countries, into collective action to strengthen the U.N. system in practical ways?

We should consider at this session, as a priority issue, how we, the "Friends of the U.N.", can identify and put into place practical measures to strengthen the U.N. system.

Any analysis of what is needed to strengthen the U.N. system must be based upon a realistic assessment of what has gone wrong and what has gone right.

A first thing that has gone wrong is that the Security Council has become increasingly ineffective. We all recognize that the Council does not operate in a vacuum. It will continue to mirror world tensions. But deteriorating relationships between its permanent members must not be allowed to immobilize the Council. We must immunize the Council to the extent that, no matter what the crisis and whatever the state of relations among its members, their representative will continue to talk.

Last year the members of the Council held a series of private meetings to discuss how to improve the effectiveness of the Council. But the exercise appears to have run out of steam. Even ideas which appear uncontroversial on the surface seem to have been ignored. Why, for example, can the members of the Council not agree to hold regular in camera sessions, with the Secretary-General present, to review the Council's and Secretary-General's role in facilitating the solution of