

I wish to thank the Centre Québécois des relations internationales for giving me the opportunity to speak to you today. It is always a pleasure for me to visit the old capital and, above all, to meet the citizens of this beautiful city.

It is just as important for a Minister of External Affairs to travel across Canada as to travel abroad, for two basic reasons. First, to point out to Canadians the issues we must deal with internationally and to ensure that our actions are in keeping with the interests and values of individual Canadians. Second, it is important for Canadians to become aware of the impact of major economic trends and global policies on their everyday lives, whether in trade, human rights, the environment, or matters of peace and security.

In a recent *Journal de Montréal* article, Captain Richard Saint-Louis, a Canadian soldier, made the following statement about his mission as a Blue Beret in Yugoslavia: "Peacekeeping, being a peacekeeper, is my small contribution to humanity."

Is there anything more typically Canadian than this statement? I am sure that I will find the same attitude among the soldiers of Camp Valcartier, whom I will soon be meeting. Whether they are from Quebec, New Brunswick or British Columbia, Canada's Blue Berets represent everything that is most laudable and courageous in this country.

We are all proud of our peacekeepers. We are all proud of Canada's contribution to peacekeeping. Indeed, Canada is the only country that has participated in every peacekeeping mission organized by the United Nations since 1947.

In the past 30 years, Canada has had a far greater international influence than a country of 20 or 25 million people normally has. This influence can largely be attributed to the fact that we have combined our efforts with those of other countries through multilateral institutions. It can also be attributed to the fact that we have continually worked to settle disputes peacefully. Through the years, Canadian soldiers and civilians alike have distinguished themselves by their competence, impartiality and cool-headedness in keeping the peace in such faraway places as Kashmir, Zaire, the Middle East, Cyprus, Latin America and, more recently, Cambodia, Angola, Namibia, Yugoslavia and Somalia.

Since 1947, more than 87,000 Canadian soldiers, both men and women, have participated in dozens of missions to restore and maintain peace or to supervise truces organized by the United Nations. Since the Korean War, more than 80 Canadians have lost their lives while serving on peacekeeping forces.

While we are proud of these achievements and sacrifices, we cannot rest on our laurels. Keeping the peace is presenting us