

It was apparent that the scope, intensity and frequency of peacekeeping activities carried out around the world by representatives of Canada are much greater than many had realized prior to the seminar.

It was generally argued that a more comprehensive public education and information program ought to be instituted and maintained on a wide scale, not only to ensure that Canadians are aware of the Canadian contribution to international peace, security and stability, but also to foster a continuing and informed discussion.

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

In her opening address the Minister noted that the "new world order" had fallen into disarray. Members of the international community had been caught off guard by the swiftness with which conflict had emerged and developed. The ability of the international community to discern and interpret warning signals was not as advanced as had been supposed. It was also clear that there was not a capability to respond quickly to those signals that had been detected.

Mrs. McDougall affirmed that "support for peace and security operations has been, and continues to be, a pillar of foreign policy. It has given us not only a distinctive role in the world, but also an influence in international relations that goes well beyond the normal reaches of a middle power."

Noting that "today, the international community is called upon to intervene in a multitude of localized or regional conflicts caused by ethnic and religious hostility, the re-emergence of virulent forms of nationalism, famine and the abuse of human rights," she set before the seminar participants a number of questions for their consideration:

1. Should Canada continue to contribute human and financial resources to every peacekeeping operation, taking into account our finite resources and the rapidly expanding demand?
2. How do we reconcile our pride in our past involvement in peace and security with our stake in the future of peace and security?
3. Is there a pay-back to Canada for shouldering our fair burden -- and more -- of the costs of peace and security? Should there be? Does our involvement serve broader national interests? What are they?
4. Canada could also place a greater emphasis on training. Since we virtually invented peacekeeping, why not put our experience and expertise to good use, helping other countries that are new to the field?