

To conclude, let me say that peacekeeping is undergoing profound change and expansion while Canada, as a major troop contributor, is facing limitations on both our human and financial resources. This situation poses the dilemma we must resolve. How can we continue to meet the pressing need for peacekeeping forces considering the restrictions on our abilities to respond? I have offered several suggestions here, including more innovative approaches to peacekeeping; improvements that will make the UN more operations-oriented; and the maintenance of well-trained, well-led and well-equipped forces.

Just as we rely on collective action to maintain our security, we must work collectively to find solutions to the issues and problems that threaten our potential for success as peacekeepers and peacebuilders. I doubt that we will find any simple answers. The issues and problems that incite people to take up arms against one another are often very complex and may require equally complex solutions.

It has been said that maintaining peace will be the challenge of the 21st century. Assuming that this is true, there can be no question that peacekeeping will continue to play a central role in conflict resolution.

We have the opportunity to influence positively the changes that must be made. Our efforts at this juncture will be an important contribution to making the UN a stronger, more effective, instrument of world peace.

Thank you.