

region where weapons of mass destruction exist and must be controlled. This is a region which has been a bonanza for arms merchants. This is a region of uneven and unstable development politically and economically, a fertile feeding ground for extremism and terror. This is a region which has seen four wars between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

This is a region where diplomacy has failed. We must act with determination to see that diplomacy works in the future. If we concentrate only on the battle, and neglect that which will certainly follow, our victory here -- no matter how easy or hard -- will be hollow. Just as this conflict is a litmus test for a United Nations system which works, so too building the peace which follows will be a test of the UN and all its members. I can assure you today that both tasks will be pursued with vigour and determination by Canada.

These are trying times, tormenting times for the families and friends of those who now risk their lives in the pursuit of a principle Canadians have always upheld. We cannot promise that risk will diminish soon. But we can promise them our support and our efforts to end this conflict on terms which do honour to our purposes.