

Our recent experiences in the former Yugoslavia and in Rwanda emphasize the link between security and human rights. The UN's many human rights mechanisms produce a wealth of information that could help identify and understand potential areas of conflict. The High Commissioner for Human Rights has a role to play in enhancing the early warning functions of the UN. The experience of the Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda revealed the need for the more effective co-ordination of UN field missions. Canada has commissioned work on the human rights components of field operations and on standby arrangements for them. This work will yield recommendations on ways to integrate human rights in UN field operations, consistent with the approach outlined in the *Agenda for Peace*.

A coherent approach to the prevention and management of complex emergencies is a major concern of Canadian foreign policy, and one of the best ways to renew commitment to the UN. Averting crisis requires more flexibility and speed in decision making and in implementation. In this regard, Canada supports the proposal for a conference on security, stability and development in the Great Lakes region of Central Africa. We also reaffirm our strong support for the UN's Department of Humanitarian Affairs.

Another major focus of Canada's preventive action is arms control and disarmament, especially concerning nuclear weapons. The historic decision to indefinitely extend the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] provides a foundation for further important gains on nuclear disarmament. We must now complete the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty negotiations as early as possible in 1996, to permit its signature at the General Assembly next September. An agreement to begin negotiations on a treaty to ban the production of fissionable material for nuclear weapons is currently held up. We squander such opportunities at our peril. Canada calls on all members of the Conference on Disarmament to proceed urgently with the cut-off negotiations.

Regrettably, Mr. President, our efforts to take preventive action are eroded by the continued global imbalance between spending on armaments and spending on human development. Multilateral institutions should take trends in military and other unproductive spending into consideration. All UN Member States should comply with the UN Conventional Arms Register, which we hope will be expanded soon to include military holdings and national procurement activities. Together, interested countries could develop criteria to identify excessive military expenditures and appropriate international responses. Canada has taken some initiatives in this regard in recent months and we look forward to productive negotiations with many Member States here.

Mr. President, when a UN preventive diplomacy operation stumbles and efforts to prevent conflict fail, Member States all too often