

spoken to many world leaders by telephone and in person at the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in Shanghai.

I've also spent a great deal of time on the telephone since September 11 talking to my counterparts. I held meetings in the Middle East in October, and recently I was in New York City for the UN General Assembly. There I met with G8 colleagues as well as representatives of Pakistan, India, key Islamic countries and members of the Rio Group of Latin American nations. I used these meetings strategically for coalition building.

The overwhelming majority of countries around the globe are committed to fighting terrorism. We've seen unprecedented solidarity encompassing different geographic regions, religions, ethnic groups, political systems and levels of development. That solidarity was most recently demonstrated in an important UN Security Council resolution of

November 12, backing the political transition and humanitarian and security efforts in Afghanistan. That's why it's so crucial to build and nurture the coalition and the resolve to end terrorism. Canada is investing a great deal of effort to do so, and I'm confident this solidarity will hold.

Canada World View: Who is Canada working with to build international support against terrorism?

John Manley: Continued coalition-building in the international community is essential. To this end, Canada is working hard with many other countries to ensure the widest coalition possible.

The UN is and will undoubtedly continue playing a key role in resolving this crisis, and we applaud the unity of purpose shown by the Security Council since

September 11. As you know, Canada is busy implementing its UN obligations and working hard to promote the widest possible adherence by other countries. This includes progress toward a new, comprehensive UN counterterrorism convention.

The fight against terrorism is being further strengthened through NATO and the G8—of which Canada assumed the presidency in January 2002—and in organizations as diverse as APEC, the Commonwealth and

La Francophonie. As a member of all of these, Canada is uniquely placed to carry forward the message of the coalition.

And don't forget, with only 12 ratifications to go (as of December 31), the International Criminal Court will play an enormous part in the global fight to eliminate impunity for the most serious crimes known to humankind—including terrorism that amounts to genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes.

Canada World View:

Canada's involvement in the military campaign against terrorism has been criticized in some quarters. How do you answer those critics?

John Manley: The decision to contribute Canadian Forces personnel and assets was not made lightly. But we believe that it is the right thing to do. Canada is a peace-loving nation, but our history shows that we will stand and fight where necessary to defend our values. We fully backed the invocation of NATO's Article V on self-defence, which states that an attack against one NATO member is an attack against all. As Prime Minister Chrétien said: "We have not picked this fight, but we will finish it, and finish it well." ♣



Photo: CANAPRESS

Foreign Affairs Minister John Manley (right) and U.S. Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge prepare to sign a declaration for the creation of a Smart Border for the 21st century between Canada and the United States, Ottawa, December 12.