

Since the beginning of this crisis, the safety of Canadians has also been on our minds. We have advised by letter all registered Canadians in Croatia to leave zones of conflict.

All Canadian missions are in a position to provide Canadian visas to Yugoslav nationals, and locally engaged staff in our Consulate General in Zagreb continue to operate the Mission and offer assistance to Canadian citizens in Croatia.

But we must also comfort and support the Canadians here at home who have families and friends in the area of conflict. They live peacefully in our neighbourhoods among us, with people of all races and creeds from every corner of the world.

They work side by side with people whose families arrived here three or four hundred years ago.

They value peace, freedom, order and equality of opportunity for members of their families and the people of their communities, as well as those in their homelands.

They tolerate diversity, differences of opinion or political affiliation because they live in our country in a generous society and a tolerant one.

They value the harmony that is the cornerstone of our society.

We ask them to help us. They are involved emotionally and otherwise. We ask them to help us in calling for leaders in all parts of Yugoslavia and its component states to stop shooting and to come together at the table.

We can impose strict sanctions. We can condemn violence and plead for peace, we can meet around the clock in our various forums and we can pass all of our resolutions, but the people of Yugoslavia must themselves find that harmony that is crucial to their future.

That is neither an avowal of failure nor an unwillingness to do everything in our power to support peace efforts and to provide relief. It is a note of caution, however, for Canadians who think that there are quick and simple answers even as we are searching for those new answers.

We pledge to make every effort to assist the people of Yugoslavia. When those opportunities are there, we will seize them and we will search them out. We also seek an immediate peace. One more death, one more injury, one more building is one too many.

But we do pray for that harmony; we search for it. We join with our allies, and we join with our fellow Canadians in seeking it.