

prepared to learn from recent setbacks. Canada proceeds on the principle that the international community is resolved to achieve the goals of the Charter and views the UN as one of the best instruments for addressing the world's problems.

The United Nations' continued relevance was demonstrated recently by the indefinite renewal of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and by the firm commitment to maintaining and revitalizing the UN system of international institutions made by the leaders of the G-7 countries and Russia at the Halifax Summit.

The message emanating from world capitals is clear: we must take advantage of this anniversary to confirm and renew our commitment to the UN. Only from such a renewed commitment can the will to reform emerge.

The vision which is to guide us over the next 50 years should draw inspiration from the opening words of the preamble to the Charter of the United Nations: *we the peoples of the United Nations*. It is for them that the UN exists and it is in their interests that we, the governments, must labour. Our efforts must be directed not only towards ensuring human security but also to grounding this security in the freedom of all peoples to live in peace, free of fear, free of poverty, free of injustice, inequality and ignorance.

Canada firmly believes that the pursuit of this goal rests on three fundamentals: conflict prevention, rapid reaction when a conflict does break out, and ongoing support for peace-building efforts.

If we want the UN to keep pace with a changing world, if we wish to restore confidence in its institutions, we must draw lessons from the failures in Bosnia, Somalia and Rwanda, and draw sustenance from the successes in Cambodia, Namibia and El Salvador.

The UN already possesses most of the instruments of preventive diplomacy: economic development programs, mediation offices, investigations into human rights abuses, arms control agreements. At first glance, these instruments appear to have little in common. Taken together, however, they all contribute to conflict prevention. For example, our recent experience in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda highlights the links between security and human rights. The UN's array of instruments for defending human rights generates an abundance of information that could help us identify and understand potential areas of conflict.

It is imperative that the efforts directed towards preventive diplomacy be accompanied by efforts of similar scope on the rapid reaction front. Canada intends to build on its long experience