

ground, and in that safe area, the peace is holding. This means lives are being saved, and aid is getting through.

The same can be said of Visoko and Kiseljak in Bosnia, the western sector in Croatia where there are additional Canadians, and many other towns and villages where peacekeepers from around the world -- French, British, Spanish, Egyptian, Argentinean and others -- are assisting to save lives and prevent atrocities.

The risks in these places are still enormous, and the safety of the UN troops, the humanitarian workers, and of the local population that they are there to protect, must be fully taken into account as we consider future action.

I was in Croatia and Bosnia ten days ago, and looked into the eyes of women and children in refugee camps who have experienced unspeakable terrors. This experience heightened my frustration at "the received wisdom" concerning this conflict. First, that it does not matter much, because killing has gone on in the Balkans for centuries; and second, that it is a problem of such infinite complexity that it cannot be managed at all.

We cannot allow such a trivialization of this or any other global problem. The situation in the former Yugoslavia provides a looking glass through which we can see the future. Giving up on the situation there will send appalling signals to tyrants and villains and hate-mongers around the globe.

When I was in Washington Friday, I told Secretary of State Christopher that Canada welcomes the new active role of the United States, to work together with allies and the international community to find an end to the current tragedy in Bosnia and elsewhere in the former Yugoslavia. As one of the countries with troops on the ground, Canada agrees entirely that we can not allow political setbacks to incite among the parties to the conflict new rounds of violence and atrocities. But we must remember that, ultimately, peace there will require a political solution. We must therefore use all the political and diplomatic leverage at our disposal to explore the parameters of peace, to find an alternative to continued bloodshed.

Canada strongly supports the sending of UN observers to the Bosnian-Serbian border to ensure that no arms reach Bosnian Serbs. We also believe that the French proposal for temporary safe havens guarded by UN troops has merit. In the coming days we will continue our consultation with our friends and allies on other steps.