

an extraordinary Francophonie ministerial meeting in Paris last week, we agreed to send a mission of good offices to Burundi. In keeping with our desire to see closer co-operation between multilateral and regional organizations, this ministerial delegation will coincide with one from the Organization of African Unity. The actions of both missions will complement each other.

We should also be exploring opportunities for regional peacekeeping training centres, regional stocks of equipment and possibly operational headquarters at a regional level. We intend to work with Latin American countries to see how a start can be made on these issues in Latin America, possibly through the OAS. The newly-created ASEAN [Association of Southeast Asian Nations] Regional Forum could also be a valid interlocutor in these matters, as far as the Asia-Pacific Region is concerned.

A UN standing force remains a key goal for many of us. But it is not an "all or nothing" proposition. It is feasible, in my view, to develop what Major-General Dallaire calls a "Vanguard Concept." In that idea, standby arrangements play a key role. In the UN system, we need a better appreciation of the role that standby arrangements could play in making the UN more effective. Therefore, I will soon be proposing to the UN a meeting of countries that have established standby arrangements, or that are on the verge of doing so. We could explore the way ahead on standards, training, on joint exercises and the development of the Vanguard Group concept, and we could think on how to link this concept, over time, to the longer term goal of a permanent UN emergency force.

Another key point is the need for coherence in the UN's overall approach to crisis. This means workable arrangements among the humanitarian organizations, the non-governmental community and the UN, towards common objectives. There are innovations that can help achieve the unity of effort that is fundamental to effective action. We need a strong civil component in every peacekeeping mission, with a focal point for humanitarian coordination. The key to this is people. Canada is prepared to make available, for short-term assignments to the UN, trained personnel with linguistic and regional expertise, if missions need to be strengthened on the non-military side.

As we look ahead, we need to be thinking about keeping up the momentum. The International Conference on the Extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in New York next week, and the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' meeting that I will be hosting in Vancouver next month, are both excellent opportunities to continue a meaningful dialogue on these issues with a number of key players. I also look forward to discussions with my NATO [North Atlantic Treaty Organization] colleagues at our next