

to be appointed as the SHIRBRIG force commander in 2004, Canada may be effectively bound into the next deployment.

In reviewing the history of SHIRBRIG, Brigadier General Côté noted an evolution that included a few major departures from the original restricted mandate. For one, the initial deployment to UNMEE quickly overrode the earlier agreement to avoid deployment into desert conditions. This operation had helped to foster mutual respect between the SHIRBRIG headquarters and UN staff. The latter retain a very high opinion of the SHIRBRIG planning element and hope to see a larger SHIRBRIG mission headquarters in the near future.

Brigadier General Côté proceeded to explain that Canada's agenda for the next year would entail efforts to show more flexibility. Civilians would be included in the Headquarters to provide peacebuilding expertise in the earliest stage of a deployment. The Chair would identify and solicit support for other tasks such as humanitarian assistance, providing observers, providing personnel for the core of a rapidly deployable mission headquarters and providing a formed planning and reconnaissance team. Aside from the effort to recruit new members, there would be an attempt to attract other similar brigades. By necessity, this would have to be a careful selective process, but there were hopes for countries from Africa, the Far East and South America.

Finally, Brigadier General Côté indicated it was too early to move on *The Responsibility to Protect*. He noted that the project is in its early stages and the concept needs to be operationalized through dialogue with DFAIT before marketing it with others. Essentially, a better understanding of what *The Responsibility to Protect* entails from a military perspective is necessary before it can be incorporated into UN missions and mandates.