

This new thinking must extend beyond the halls of government and international institutions like the UN. Canada's commitment to peacekeeping has always been based on the support of the Canadian people. This support remains strong, as recent polls make clear. As we work our way through this period of crisis and change, the Government will want to ensure that this public consensus is maintained, to be responsive to the views of concerned Canadians and to discuss what our policies mean in terms of resource commitment.

It is against this background that I was pleased to chair a wide-ranging and stimulating discussion among experts last week at a seminar on "Canada's Agenda for International Peace and Security." What was notable about that seminar was that its participants included not just military specialists but also representatives of the non-military side of peacekeeping -- election observers, humanitarian assistance workers and police, for example. I see it as contributing to a national discussion on this subject, and that is why I am especially glad to be able to meet today with the Committee.

In these opening remarks, I would like to focus on six instruments for crisis management. These derive from the "Agenda for Peace" issued last summer by UN Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali. Taken together, they reflect a spectrum of ways to handle potential or actual conflict situations.

At one end of the spectrum, we find *preventive diplomacy*: the attempt to head off the outbreak of hostilities by dealing with underlying problems and root causes. It includes such measures as early-warning mechanisms to ensure that potential conflicts can be anticipated, perhaps in time to head them off; fact-finding missions and monitoring; confidence-building measures, such as mutual military inspections; warnings to potential combatants; sponsorship of consultations; and, offers to mediate.

Canada is already active in this area. In the former Yugoslavia, Canadians have taken part in a wide range of initiatives, including the EC-led CSCE monitoring mission, the Canadian-led CSCE fact-finding mission last June on the military situation in Kosovo and subsequent CSCE conflict prevention missions in other parts of the former Yugoslavia. Canada also provided logistical and expert support to the fact-finding mission of the CSCE chairman-in-office to Nagorno-Karabakh, and will shortly be participating in a CSCE mission to Estonia. This is intended to stabilize relations between the Estonian majority and the large Russian minority.

A related option in the crisis management spectrum is *preventive deployment or preventive peacekeeping*. This involves the deployment of peacekeeping forces, before hostilities break out,