

The time is now long overdue to reach an agreement that will permit the closing of the camps and the return of their inhabitants to their livelihoods and homes in Cambodia. This should be done at the earliest time, consistent with the safety of the people concerned. Canada is prepared to provide reintegration assistance to those who choose to return under a multilateral effort led by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. If peace does return to Cambodia, we will also look for new opportunities to facilitate family reunification and family visits for Cambodians in Canada.

As to reconstruction, few countries have been as badly devastated by war and ideology as Cambodia. If we are able to achieve a comprehensive and viable agreement, it should be followed by a carefully coordinated international effort to restore a healthy economy and improve social conditions in Cambodia. Canada has given aid to Cambodia in the past, and is willing to consider doing so again in the future. We are prepared to examine all possible ways to determine which are the most effective, and look forward to work at the Conference on this subject. We have long recognized that economic and social development are closely tied to peace and security. Nowhere is this more true than in Cambodia.

Cochairmen, Colleagues, Canada joins with all others in this room in earnestly hoping that the long search for lasting peace in Cambodia will at last be successful. But this will not be the case if, in our anxiety to achieve some result, we agree on a partial or faulty arrangement. We must work soundly as well as quickly. There can be no winners except the Cambodian people themselves, no losers except those who have shown contempt for human rights. Thank you.