

struggle to be heard against the more vocal and emotionally-charged rhetoric coming out of places such as Washington and Paris. Major powers consider Canada to be a good team player, the quiet workhorse of the peacekeeping operations. They seek to placate us when we raise concerns, but always tell us what a good job we are doing and why we have to stay the course (particularly those countries without troops on the ground). The fact that we continue to maintain our troops in Bosnia and Croatia, for perfectly valid national interests, does not help us to gain further influence in the decision-making process that has a direct impact on our personnel on the ground. Ironically, the one thing we could do to get that influence – withdraw from UNPROFOR and/or UNCRO – would, in fact, eliminate our influence. It is our trump card, and our last card. Once played, we are out the game and relegated to being a spectator. Unless we are prepared to deal ourselves out, it is not very useful to threaten to leave, as this takes on an increasingly hollow ring each time it is raised.

15. Our options, therefore, are limited. First and foremost, we must make a realistic assessment of what is likely to happen on the ground in Bosnia and Croatia (as we have indicated above, the likely scenarios are not encouraging). Second, we must decide whether we believe there is a role for the International Community at this point in time. If so, we must determine what we think that role should be and whether Canada has the capabilities to be a part of that. Then we need to convince the various international organizations of the merits of our views. If we cannot, and the shape of the international response is different from our own, we must decide whether we want to remain a part of these efforts, given the potential threat to the lives of Canadian military and civilian personnel deployed in what used to be Yugoslavia.
16. Our peacekeepers (and UN civilian employees) continue to do exceptional work throughout the former Yugoslavia, as we have witnessed on many occasions during our travels in Croatia and Bosnia. All they ask is that we give them clear direction of what we are trying to achieve and provide them with the means to carry out their difficult duties.