3) RESTORATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

On the environmental front, we must collectively tackle the clean-up of the damage caused by the insane dumping of unprecedented quantities of crude oil into the Gulf. A team of Canadian specialists is already on site and is busy planning this operation together with colleagues from many countries. But we must also look further ahead and examine how to strengthen present conventions on the use of the environment for military purposes. It may be necessary to negotiate a new instrument. We have already taken the initiative of contacting certain countries to pursue this project further. At the same time, we will examine the possibility of reinforcing the international mechanisms currently provided to respond to such emergencies.

MEDIUM-RANGE CHALLENGES: SECURITY IN THE GULF AND THE MIDDLE EAST

But these immediate post-war problems seem almost trivial compared to the challenges of establishing lasting peace and security in this region of the world.

The specific problems that arise will largely depend on the situation as it stands once the war is over. It is already clear that certain problems will be unavoidable.

1) A GLOBAL APPROACH TO SECURITY

First, let us consider security. While a peacekeeping force is a factor in maintaining equilibrium, it cannot in and of itself claim to fully guarantee the security of the Gulf states. Regional arrangements must thus be complemented by international guarantees which could take the form of international accords committing some of the countries in the coalition under the authority of the United Nations. Such multilateral arrangements would no doubt be more acceptable to the people of the region. In the same spirit, Canada feels that it would be preferable for these guarantees not to include the permanent deployment of foreign forces in the Gulf.

On a longer-range basis, however, these countries must work to establish mechanisms and structures that will enable them to resolve their disputes peacefully and contribute to greater trust among them. While the experience of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) cannot be transferred to this region as is, some of its lessons may offer promising avenues.