

views of the House on the implications of this trend would be welcome.

The sharp rise in the number of peacekeeping missions has brought many challenges with it. These include: political challenges, as the international community is increasingly taking on responsibility for situations that just a short time ago were confined to the internal affairs of the states involved; military challenges, as we see a rapidly growing demand for soldiers with the training and equipment for missions as dangerous as they are complex; and, of course, financial challenges created by personnel numbering in the tens of thousands, rather than the few thousands of yesteryear's operations.

In order to face the new challenges, the United Nations and its member states will have to thoroughly re-examine the way in which peacekeeping operations are being managed. At the national level, we must look at our commitments with an increasingly critical eye. Internationally, an urgent need exists to reinforce the United Nations' capability to respond professionally and quickly to the crises requiring its attention. Canada responds generously to calls from the United Nations and from regional organizations for needed experts. General Baril, the Secretary-General's military advisor, is a Canadian, and many other Canadians have been made available to the United Nations and the CSCE. We pay our financial contributions in full and in time, and have given the Secretary-General recommendations on how to make the United Nations structure more effective. We are determined to increase our effort, and to exercise the leadership that the other countries expect from us in this field.

Mr. Speaker, the Canadian men and women serving under the United Nations banner are saving lives and relieving misery. None of us will forget the poignant images of the soldiers who aided the helpless victims in a hospital in Bosnia.

It is also clear that their living conditions are increasingly dangerous. Here another picture comes to mind, that of the 11 Canadian soldiers threatened by Serbian troops near Sarajevo last month.

Events in Bosnia are thus very much in the public eye. The powerful images of the suffering of the Bosnian people and the challenges facing our troops have become an integral part of the evening news. However, we must look beyond these images to the larger questions that Bosnia poses. These questions fall into two categories: the future of our commitment to the UN effort in Bosnia itself, and the implications of this episode for our peacekeeping policy generally.