

But, we do not believe these individuals should go in empty handed. In negotiating solutions with belligerent parties, for example, there has to be a clear indication that non-settlement will have consequences. Parties need to understand that there will be a price to pay for continued aggression.

That is why an essential requirement of our approach is that the world community develop the capacity to intervene quickly in the event that preventive diplomacy fails. We need a quick response to back up our diplomatic initiatives. We need to be able to act before a dispute spreads, before it becomes an entrenched war, too difficult or impossible to resolve. That is why Canada is sponsoring an in-depth study of the short- medium- and long-term options for improving the rapid reaction capability of the UN in response to crisis, such as that which took place last year in Rwanda.

I believe that having this capacity may, in many cases, be enough to bring about a resolution. The threat of intervention may be sufficient to compel the parties to reach a peaceful solution. And, since belligerent parties are not likely to listen to reason without it - it is essential for success.

We are also encouraging - and attempting to lead by example - on the wider question of building the capacity of certain states to provide protection for human rights. We need to help rebuild in places where war and oppression have left deep scars - scars which have either destroyed democratic institutions, or left little hope that any such institutions could ever be developed.

Too often, in the past countries devastated by war or oppression were left alone by the world community to heal themselves. Instead of healing, the same wounds grew worse. The same problems re-emerged. The same bloody conflicts ensued.

To reverse the cycle and to ensure long-term peace we must be ready to provide the expertise and experience that has kept our own societies relatively free of violence and oppression.

This includes such bilateral initiatives as our work on the establishment of electoral systems and election monitoring in South Africa. It includes the legal and judicial training we are providing in Haiti and the dialogue on human rights and human development taking place between Canadian and Chinese academics.

It includes the efforts we are making in Haiti - with the co-operation of the RCMP, one of the most respected and recognized police forces in the world - on police and security training. We are helping the Haitian police evolve from a combative and partisan organization into a neutral force for the protection of individuals.