

The integrity of the alliance and stability of the region should be our guidelines. But we must positively engage this issue. Grudging treatment will make a failure of our alliance and will disappoint our friends.

Proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their missile-delivery systems, as well as continuing concerns in the conventional-arms fields, including preservation of the CFE [Conventional Armed Forces in Europe] Treaty, are priority issues for Canada and for the alliance. Co-ordinated and comprehensive responses to these issues by all members of the alliance will be critical, if we are to succeed in dealing with them successfully.

Although we are witnessing many tense and critical situations, the one in the former Yugoslavia is by far the most urgent of all. In co-operation with several other countries, Canada has sought to resolve this tragedy and to end the suffering.

We have pressed for respect for human life and the punishment of those who violate it. We have just released an additional sum of \$10 million to alleviate suffering this winter. We have also participated in political efforts to arrive at the only possible solution: an agreement negotiated by all parties concerned. To add to these actions and to confirm our commitment, we were happy to take part in the meeting recently held in Geneva. We have also energetically supported peacekeeping efforts and have constantly upheld the idea of NATO participation in a comprehensive peace plan under the auspices of the UN. At the same time, we oppose and will continue to oppose proposals for military action that do not favour resolution of the conflict and do endanger the lives of peacekeepers. We are deeply disappointed by the inability of the parties involved to negotiate an agreement, and the idea of another winter of suffering and cruelty causes us concern. We believe that all possible pressure must collectively be brought to bear on the parties concerned so that they will continue negotiating instead of fighting, and will finally recognize that their true interests will be better served by a negotiated peace than by prolonging an inhuman war.

Mr. Secretary-General, in conclusion I would like to salute your efforts and to assure you of Canada's determination to find answers to all of the items that you have so clearly raised in your letter. We have just over a month to do so, if we wish the next summit to be able to help transform our alliance and to make it more credible and effective. It is in this spirit of honest co-operation that I approach my work among all of us here present.