

funds in support of human rights and the development of democratic institutions. Since democracies rarely attack each other, early support of fledgling democracies is in our own interests.

Canada has earned respect through our development assistance programs as a country that is committed to putting its resources where its principles are. In Eastern and Central Europe and the former Soviet Union, we have earned our credentials with a framework for economic co-operation that is ahead of most other G-7 (Group of Seven leading industrialized) countries, at least in per capita terms.

Canada, I believe, has done its part to help. And we have been frank with those governments that have still not lived up to their responsibilities at this time of challenge.

In turning its back on communism, Russia faces formidable difficulties in building a free-market economy and a full-fledged democracy, as we all know. It also has committed itself to reduce its stockpile of nuclear weapons, and to address broader problems of regional and global security. But it faces additional economic problems that will result from the destruction of its nuclear program, and it faces domestic problems with respect to the management of the ethnic and racial conflicts on its peripheries. Russia, and other countries of the former Soviet Union, must continue to attract both international recognition and assistance if we are to avoid an upward spiral of discontent that may eventually lead to conflict.

It is impossible to talk about co-operative security today without reference to the former Yugoslavia. This situation, particularly in Bosnia-Herzegovina, has demonstrated the difficulties faced by the international community in developing a comprehensive political and diplomatic response to a tragic and vicious conflict.

Almost two years ago, in September 1991, Canada called for UN intervention in the region. At that point, containment was still a real possibility. But it was many months before a consensus was reached, during which time the violence and atrocities escalated. The first battalion into Sarajevo in support of the UN humanitarian mission was Canadian. Today there are over 22,000 peacekeepers in Croatia and Bosnia, of whom 2,100 are Canadian.

Recently, Canadian Forces have once again come into the eye of the hurricane in Srebrenica, until a few weeks ago, a little-known city in Bosnia. A group of some 150 soldiers escorted humanitarian aid missions, helped evacuate the wounded and supervised a UN-proclaimed safe haven. They have been joined since by additional troops but they are still in place, on the