

greater common obligation than was the rebuilding of western Europe through the Marshall Plan. It may also be a greater opportunity — not only to avert great dangers, but perhaps also to give a massive “kick-start” to the lagging international economy through meeting the gigantic economic, social and environmental needs of the region.

These countries need and ask for, almost the equivalent of an Occupation regime. This is obviously not possible, but some Canadians have privately suggested setting up a “twin” to the OECD which, in an earlier form, played such a key role in the post-war recovery of western Europe. This could help break through some of the current bureaucratic inertia and unseemly competition between European and American responses.

Even the higher estimates of investment now required from western countries are derisory beside the sums that have been spent on military defence, amounts which should never have to be spent again.

Political and Military Security

It has been clear, as western countries navigated the shoals of the crumbling Soviet Union, and the fragmentation of Yugoslavia, that there are dangers in moving too precipitously to give political acceptance to emerging authorities. The councils of the West have not proved cohesive enough to preserve unity in all cases; unfortunately, Canada and Germany broke ranks in their unilateral pushes for recognition of Ukraine, and Croatia and Slovenia respectively.

In the fields of arms control and arms reduction, 1990 and 1991 were probably the most encouraging years in history and yet, events moved so quickly that these positive trends were overshadowed, and perhaps left behind.

Canadian Defence Policy

Ottawa took a welcome step forward in September 1991 when the Minister of National Defence made a long-delayed defence policy statement. The policy still does not confront as directly as it might the fact that for Canada, UN peacekeeping may represent primary — as opposed to ancillary — defence challenges. It is time to recognize that UN peacekeeping is a global “growth industry” in which Canada is the world leader. It is a source of healthy national pride and extraordinarily strong public support for Canada’s armed forces.