

The international community can also facilitate a solution by encouraging the countries of origin and asylum to develop an orderly plan for the repatriation of refugees. We are gratified by the progress that the Government of Rwanda has already made, through its Operation Retour, in returning displaced persons within its territory to their homes.

Likewise we take satisfaction from Tanzania's initiative to inject momentum into the process by deploying a police force to collaborate with the security forces set up by the refugees. Zaire's willingness to conclude an agreement with the UNHCR to enhance the security of Rwandan refugees in its territory is equally welcome. These steps exemplify the spirit that has been shown in this region to cope with the crisis.

Canada believes we must work to provide incentives to the refugees to return. For us, this has involved:

- Supporting the importance of this conference on refugees;
- Assisting the Government of Rwanda, including helping to restore its operational capacity;
- Supporting the creation of an international tribunal to investigate war crimes committed in Rwanda and to rehabilitate Rwanda's judicial system;
- Supporting the UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda [UNAMIR], through diplomatic efforts, and the provision of Canadian Forces personnel

We believe, as an additional incentive, that the UNHCR should set up in-transit camps within Rwanda to welcome refugees leaving the camps in the neighbouring countries of asylum. These should be close to the frontier - perhaps 5 to 10 kilometres distant - to facilitate logistics and encourage refugees to embark on the trip. Such camps would facilitate the task of the Rwandan authorities in welcoming the refugees and directing them to their communes and homes. Movement of the refugees to these camps would allow the countries of asylum to begin the process of closing down the camps in their territories.

I have had the opportunity in the last few days to visit victims of this region's conflicts in camps and temporary holding institutions. What we must remember here are the faces of those frightened, innocent victims - women, men, seniors, but especially the children. Our deliberations here in Burundi this week must recognize that nothing takes precedence over assuring these victims and all other citizens of this region that they do have a future here - one of peace, hope and prosperity for all. This focus must hold our attention and inspire our deliberations here in Bujumbura. This conference offers us an excellent point of departure.

Thank you.