

Canadians are the most experienced peacekeepers in the world. Since the first United Nations (UN) peacekeeping forces were sent out 45 years ago, our forces have always been in demand. Ten per cent of all peacekeepers now on duty in the world are Canadian. We in Canada have always seen peacekeeping as a reflection of Canadian values, as a way of promoting our international objectives -- peace and security, respect for human rights and democratic freedoms, and a say in the decisions that shape the world.

The specific challenges that face us, however, have changed dramatically in the last five years. The end of the global Cold War has been followed by outbreaks of conflicts in many parts of the world. These conflicts are very different, one from the other -- just compare the situations in Somalia and the former Yugoslavia, for example -- and the range of diplomatic and military tools needed to deal with them has correspondingly expanded.

At the same time, the sheer volume of demand for international crisis management is now overwhelming. More such UN operations have been authorized in the last five years than in the previous forty. Partially as a way of sharing the burden, more and more regional organizations have also become involved -- the Organization of American States in Haiti, the Commonwealth in South Africa, or the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), the European Community (EC) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in former Yugoslavia. There are many situations where traditional peacekeeping, based on the consent of all parties, will not lead to a resolution of the conflict. We are faced with situations where the consent of all parties cannot be obtained, or where consent is inconsistent, or where effective authority does not in fact exist. The use of deliberate force has had to be considered more often, as other measures have failed.

If you work closely with the UN as I do, you can't fail to observe that now there is extreme pressure on the crisis management system, which has built up since its creation.

This system threatens to become seriously overloaded, not just in terms of the management of all these crises, but also in terms of the personnel and financial resources needed to deal with them on the ground. The UN budget for peacekeeping operations jumped from \$700 million in 1991 to \$2.8 billion in 1992. Associated financial and personnel costs have begun to stretch the resources even of major powers.

Canada has an established policy framework for contributing to the resolution of global conflict. Within this framework, however, new ideas are needed from all of us who are concerned with peace and security in the world.