

The international community cannot remain indifferent to the conflicts that threaten the lives of millions of innocent people and expose them to the worst violations of their most fundamental rights.

Recent experience shows us that only a concerted and determined effort on the part of the international community can solve these problems.

It is no easy task. Faced with the problems in Bosnia, Somalia, Rwanda or even Haiti, some people are tempted to give up and wonder if the United Nations is wrong in trying to resolve essentially domestic conflicts that have numerous complex causes.

Canada does not share this opinion. We think that, despite these problems, the Security Council is on the right track, even though the steps it has taken have not always proved capable of solving all the problems.

Consistent with our beliefs, we have made a tangible contribution to the UN operations as far as our circumstances permit.

The Canadian contribution to peacekeeping operations in the territories of the former Yugoslavia totals more than 2000 soldiers and civilian police officers. The Canadian government decided a few days ago to again renew the mandate of its troops for a six-month period. Canada has always been convinced that there could be no military solution to the Yugoslavian conflict. It is because we wish to give peace another chance that we have chosen to maintain our contribution to UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force].

We have also responded to the Secretary-General's appeal for help in the tragedy of Rwanda. For two months our country was the only one providing an air bridge to Kigali. Presently there are 600 Canadian soldiers serving under the flag of the United Nations. Many Canadian NGOs [non-governmental organizations] have mobilized to provide help to those in distress.

We will also be at the scene in Haiti with 600 soldiers and 100 police officers when the time comes to deploy the UN peacekeeping force. Our participation is a logical sequel to our numerous efforts of the past three years to restore the democratic process in this country to which we are attached by language, geographical proximity and the many personal ties between our peoples. The Haitian people can count on Canada's lasting help as they go about rebuilding their economy.

We are also contributing to the Middle East peace process. We are tackling with determination the task entrusted to us by the international community as gavel of the multilateral Working Group on Refugees. Our objective is to contribute to the