

My view is that peacekeeping is fundamental to Canadian foreign policy. It is not simply a question of continuing a tradition for which Canadians have a deserved international reputation. It is a question of making a concrete and key contribution to international security at a time of instability in many parts of the world. It is also a question of making the UN work, in directions which are in Canadian interests and in the interests of virtually the entire global community.

In emphasizing the importance of peacekeeping, I recognize Canada's strong desire to help the UN whenever we can. But I acknowledge, at the same time, that Canada cannot be everywhere, and do everything. At a time when the UN is approaching a total of 18 operations in the field, when Canada may have, in the near future, as many as 3700 people in the field, we simply lack the resources to participate in every operation. On what basis, therefore, do we choose? How do we select the operations we support, and distinguish them from the ones to which we might, in future, not be able to contribute?

In my view, a number of factors should guide our future action.

First of all, we should devote time, attention and resources, above all, to the planning and administrative functions at the UN which will enable the UN to function effectively in the future. This means developing ideas to make the UN Secretariat more responsive to international developments, offering personnel to the UN for explicit planning functions, helping the UN plan and co-ordinate the initial phases of operations, and offering our leadership in operations, as we did in Rwanda with Maj.-Gen. Roméo Dallaire and his successor, Maj.-Gen. Guy Tousignant. This emphasis on the "front end," based on wide-ranging Canadian experience, will help to ensure that operations can function with a maximum of effectiveness.

Second, Canada should focus on roles in UN missions involving what we do best. In Rwanda this has meant communications and logistics, the supply of fresh water, and the provision of medical field hospitals. This is also what we have done with our civilian police contributions, through the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, in Namibia and the former Yugoslavia. This is what we intend to do shortly in Haiti.

Third, we should try, in thinking about our roles, to offer contributions which are not only useful in the peacekeeping phase, but which also make a contribution to the broader reconstruction of society — the "peacebuilding phase" which follows a peaceful settlement. In Kigali, Canadian troops have opened the airports and helped restore vital communications functions. In Haiti, the UN will use an international force of trained police officers, under the leadership of Superintendent