

wrestled with long-standing questions of principle and tradition. This method has enabled them to draft, in effect, a new constitution for two-thirds of the world's surface in the more pragmatic, realistic, and I believe productive, way which a pluralistic approach can afford. Change demands such departures from accepted dogma and I believe that our approach to North-South issues is clearly in need of both stimulation and reform.

Potential for UN Secretariat

Another area of potential institutional improvement is the United Nations Secretariat itself. The office of the Secretary-General has unique value as an instrument for attenuating conflict. The government of Iran still keeps United States' diplomatic personnel hostages, almost a year after their forceful seizure. Although the tireless efforts of the Secretary-General to arrange a solution have not yet achieved their objective, they illustrate the potential of his office for promoting solutions — at least in other, less unreasonable and chaotic circumstances. In the past 35 years, his predecessors have, in fact, often led the organization into significant developments, such as peacekeeping operations, which improved our collective ability to manage conflict. Yet there is a potential for further improvement, to increase the organization's capability for mediation of conflict.

Cyprus is a case in point. There, we need a two-pronged effort to heal the divisions which have plagued its two communities since shortly after independence. First, peacekeeping efforts should continue. Canadian Armed Forces have served with the United Nations Force in Cyprus for 16 years, and Canada intends to maintain its contribution as long as active efforts to achieve a settlement continue. Second, direct mediation efforts by the Secretary-General and his representatives should be encouraged to promote substantive negotiations with representatives of the two communities, in order to resolve their differences peaceably. In this case, peacekeeping and mediation go hand in hand, both dependent upon the skill and dedication of the United Nations Organization to further our common aim of ensuring peaceful change.

By a similar token, I believe that greater use should be made of the Secretary-General's charter responsibilities in acting with the authority of his office in situations arising from violations of human rights. For many years Canada has introduced and supported proposals in the General Assembly to reinforce the organization's abilities to promote and protect human rights.

I continue to support the concept of a High Commissioner for Human Rights and the strengthening of the Commission on Human Rights' role for review and enquiry. Although the attainment of these objectives may take some time, interim solutions are available. I urge the Secretary-General to use his good office functions where the evidence of human rights violation is sufficiently serious. All states should extend their co-operation to alleviate difficulties in a non-confrontational manner and to further the interests of international co-operation.

Neither the political nor the humanitarian roles which I have suggested demand changes in the United Nations' Charter or fundamentally different mandates from the General Assembly. Rather, these roles rest on a willingness of member states to respect the Charter, to recognize the desirability of channelling the winds of change