

There are many countries that can and must live up to their UN obligations. One of the first issues I intend to raise with the new U.S. administration is the question of UN dues. We have called on other countries -- as has the Secretary-General -- to provide their share of troops for international peacekeeping.

At the moment, Canada, which ranks 33rd in the world in terms of population, is providing 10 per cent of UN peacekeepers worldwide: some 4,300 out of 45,000. Canadians are strongly committed to, and rightly proud of, our leadership in peacekeeping, but the growing role we envisage for peacekeeping calls for broader participation from others.

Emphasis on the United Nations does not exclude the strengthening of regional organizations. Indeed, the Secretary-General, with our support, believes regional organizations can enhance the work of the UN.

The London Conference process on the former Yugoslavia demonstrates the role that regional organizations can play. If there is, indeed, any hope for an early and peaceful solution in this troubled region, it will be the result of these negotiations, initiated co-operatively by the EC and the UN. Similar partnerships could be developed to deal with other areas of hostility.

Canada is uniquely placed to advance this approach, as a member of a number of key regional bodies -- the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), the Commonwealth, la Francophonie and the Organization of American States (OAS) -- and as a dialogue partner in the Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN).

Whatever the forum, the same consistent themes must be addressed: democratization, respect for human rights, good governance, peaceful settlement of disputes and open markets.

Peaceful settlement also requires progress on limiting the means for conflict. In the last year we have seen significant reductions in the nuclear and conventional military capacities of the U.S., the former Soviet Union and the other major European powers. The U.S., France and Russia have declared moratoria on nuclear testing.

Canada is strongly pursuing the comprehensive non-proliferation agenda laid out by the Prime Minister last year. First and foremost we must work toward achieving universal accession to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) and its indefinite extension when the Treaty expires in 1995.