

conflict and made the lives of tens of millions of people less terrible than they otherwise might have been.

The UN peacekeeping mission in Cyprus began 28 years ago, shortly after Lester Pearson become Prime Minister of Canada. Our forces are still in Cyprus, and I made it clear that Canada would not continue to be part of this mission unless there was discernible progress towards peace. Several weeks ago, after visiting Cyprus, I reported that there is some progress, and that Canada will not completely withdraw its forces this year.

Peacekeeping missions are intended to create a "pause" so that conflicting sides can contemplate and initiate means for creating a lasting peace -- without peacekeepers.

In Cyprus -- although 28 years is not a model for peacekeeping -- we have been able to provide that "pause."

In Bosnia-Hercegovina, the commander of the UN mission assigned to examine the possibilities for opening Sarajevo Airport, Canadian Brigadier-General Lewis Mackenzie, has asked for "48 hours" of ceasefire before proceeding to the larger exercise of actually securing the Airport.

To date, there has been an unwillingness by the warring factions to provide even that short respite in the hostilities.

Even worse, UN peacekeepers have been the targets of attack, continuing a pattern which has seen women and children taken hostage, attacks on UN and Red Cross envoys, and other acts which violate even the most basic rules of war.

Canada and its friends do not allow peacekeeping and peacekeepers to be taken for granted -- as just another strategic element to be dealt with in the quest of individuals and nations for territory and power. In the UN and other organizations our diplomats -- who are also peacekeepers, after all, just as Mike Pearson himself was -- toil in support of UN peacekeeping missions and are tenacious in overcoming obstacles to their success.

Today these efforts and the challenges we face suggest we need new methods to deal with establishing peace -- including, if necessary, peacemaking actions.

As Lester Pearson said in Oslo in 1957, on accepting the Nobel Peace Prize: "The choice ... is as clear now for nations as it was once for the individual: peace or extinction. The life of states cannot, any more than the life of individuals, be conditioned by the force and the will of a unit, however powerful, but by the consensus of a group, which must one day include all states. Today the predatory state, or the predatory