

PUTTING AN END TO TERROR

The events of September 11, 2001, in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania brought global strife to North America. The tragedy that unfolded that day killed an estimated 3500 people and left hundreds of others critically injured. While the attacks took place in the United States, their reverberations are being felt worldwide: the victims came from all parts of the globe, from a wide range of nationalities, religions and ethnic groups.

Canadians have been deeply affected by September 11. Television coverage made many of us eyewitnesses to the tragedy. That same day, communities and homes across Canada welcomed over 33 000 passengers as U.S. airspace was closed and flights were redirected. Later that week, 100 000 of us gathered on Parliament Hill in Ottawa for a national day of mourning; and sadly, among the victims of the devastation we counted, named and mourned 23 Canadians who had been killed.

Canada's response to the attacks was swift and vigorous. Prime Minister Jean Chrétien quickly established a new Ad Hoc Committee of Ministers on Public Security and Anti-Terrorism, headed by Foreign Affairs Minister John Manley. The Committee took immediate action, including allocating funds for new technologies and personnel to fortify Canada's security framework. Later, Budget 2001 committed an additional \$7.7 billion for this purpose.

Although we already have one of the safest aviation systems in the world, Canada has further strengthened airport and air security. In addition, the federal government tabled an omnibus bill in Parliament to equip our law enforcement and security agencies with the tools they need to shut down terrorist networks.

Canada was among the first countries that enforced new financial regulations to freeze the assets of terrorists and block terrorist fundraising, in compliance with the landmark United Nations Security Council Resolution 1373. Canada has also ratified 10 of the 12 UN counter-

terrorism conventions. Its new anti-terrorism legislation will allow it to ratify the remaining two.

Canada fully supported NATO's invocation of Article V of the 1949 North Atlantic Treaty that created the alliance. We are a key contributor to the military coalition being led by the United States. In the largest deployment of Canadian forces and equipment since the Korean War, almost 3000 men and women, plus naval and air support, have been assigned to the international military effort against Osama bin Laden, his Al Qaeda network and the Taliban in Afghanistan. Included in that number are 750 troops to be deployed to the Kandahar area by mid-February.

The global fight against terrorism is being further reinforced through the G8—of which Canada assumed the presidency in January 2002—and in organizations as diverse as the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, the Organization of American States, the Commonwealth and La Francophonie. As a member of all, Canada is uniquely placed to carry forward the message of the international coalition.

In this issue, *Canada World View* examines the Canadian response to September 11. It reviews measures taken by the Government of Canada to ensure the safety of our citizens and our borders; it assesses Canada's contribution to the international coalition; and it looks at the support, compassion and generosity shown by Canadians from coast to coast during one of the most horrific news events of our time. 🍁

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