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Court, and our extensive history of participation in UN peacekeeping operations put Canada in an excellent position to play an effective and constructive role on the Council and help prepare it to meet the challenges of the coming century."

This will be the sixth time that Canada has served on the Security Council since the UN was established in 1945. Its first term was during 1948-1949. This new mandate comes at an important symbolic point in time for Canada and the United Nations, since it coincides with the end of the 20th century and the beginning of a new millennium.

Fifty years after its first period of service on the Council, Canada will be faced with a number of conflicts for which durable peaceful solutions have never been found — such as in the Middle East and certain parts of Asia and Africa.

The events marking the 20th century include two world wars and innumerable regional and internal armed conflicts. While the establishment of the United Nations helped avoid the repetition of widespread conflict during the second half of the century, it has not succeeded in preventing the spread of small-scale conflicts. Many observers have expressed the view that the United Nations Security Council must address this difficult problem as a priority. In our interview with Minister Axworthy, he stressed that this is an area in which he plans to focus Canada's activities during its term on the Council. ●—

### The **FIVE PERMANENT MEMBERS** of the Security Council are:



China



France



Russia



United Kingdom



United States

### The **TEN NON-PERMANENT MEMBERS** during 1999 will be:

Argentina, Bahrain, Brazil, **Canada**, Gabon, Gambia, Malaysia, Namibia, the Netherlands and Slovenia.

# Interview with

As the 20th century draws to a close, the world is still confronted with a number of major challenges, the biggest of which is finding ways to put an end to the numerous and recurring conflicts that plague too many countries and regions.

With Canada's election to a new two-year term on the UN Security Council (UNSC), our diplomacy will be put to the test. What kind of contribution does Canada intend to make at the Council table in particular and within the UN system as a whole?

In search of answers to these questions, **Canada World View** met with Minister Axworthy and asked him about his perception of the UN, the new approaches Canada will put forward to bring an end to conflicts, and his hopes for the new year.

## **Canada World View**

Mr. Minister, first of all, congratulations for having received the North-South Prize of the Council of Europe. What does the prize mean to you?

## **Minister Axworthy**

Well, it was a great honour to receive this prize. And while it was awarded to me for my contribution to the landmines campaign, I think it is very much a recognition of the accomplishments that a large coalition of governments, non-governmental organizations, and individuals was able to achieve by working together on this important issue.

## **Canada World View**

On October 8, 1998, Canada was elected for a new mandate on the UN Security Council. Sitting at the Security Council's table presents both challenges and opportunities. What will Canada's agenda be at the UNSC in 1999?