

In addition, the Government recognizes the growing importance of the major international financial institutions and firmly intends to discuss this with its foreign partners during the G-7 Summit in Halifax in June.

I shall leave the task of providing a more detailed explanation of our objectives in this area to my colleague Roy MacLaren, the Minister for International Trade.

I shall now discuss the second objective of our foreign policy: promoting our security in a stable international framework.

Mr. Speaker, the hostile environment of the Cold War kept us from concentrating our efforts on combatting other threats no less real. While the geopolitical upheavals of recent years have greatly reduced the immediate threats to our security, we must now, paradoxically, expand our definition of this concept. Today, security is no longer defined in terms of ideologies or boundaries. Environmental deterioration, massive, uncontrolled migrations, international crime, drug trafficking, AIDS, overpopulation and underdevelopment are the names of today's threats. Our security requires a deeper awareness of them.

Canadians are proud of their country's unique contribution to UN peacekeeping operations. Canada will continue to participate in these missions, but our decisions will be subject to specific criteria. As the UN and the regional security organizations have served us well, Canada will continue to serve them well.

Mr. Speaker, this includes identifying the structural problems, weaknesses and shortcomings of these organizations, and working relentlessly toward correcting them. As I announced last September, Canada is working diligently toward improving the efficiency of the United Nations. With this in mind, we are preparing, among other things, a study on the rapid intervention capability of the UN, which we will table in September at the next General Assembly in New York.

The third objective of our foreign policy, Mr. Speaker, is to promote our values and our culture abroad.

A country that isolates itself and fails to project its identity and values beyond its boundaries is doomed to anonymity and loss of influence. Our writers, artists, academics and researchers are the best ambassadors of our identity in all its diversity. They convey the creativity and knowledge essential to the prosperity, development and health of our country. Like our entrepreneurs, they have a product to sell. Like our exporters, they have a market to conquer. And like our business people, they are known for the excellence of their product. For them too, internationalization is essential to success and competitiveness.