

First, we have graphically seen in recent days and months that agreeing on the nature and extent of a problem does not necessarily guarantee agreement on its solution, even among traditionally like-minded nations.

Second, we have to reconsider the UN's traditional definition of state sovereignty. I believe that states can no longer argue sovereignty as a licence for internal repression, when the absolutes of that sovereignty shield conflicts that eventually could become international in scope. Some standards are universal: human rights must be respected; democratic institutions must be safeguarded; judiciaries must be free and independent, national sovereignty should offer no comfort to repressors, and no protection to those guilty of breaches of the common moral codes enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The third challenge is that of UN management and funding. Canada participated in a group that looked at the whole question of UN management and called for a major restructuring of UN functions and agencies. The Secretary-General has begun the process of reorganization and we, along with other member countries, continue to press for more -- much more. But the UN will never be as efficient as it might be as long as it does not have a reliable source of income. Member debts to the UN now amount to US\$2.3 billion. The whole concept of international burden-sharing, to say nothing of the UN's ability to meet the growing demands on it, is called into question by the crippling nature of this financial burden. It is time to recognize that, whatever its faults and whatever its costs, a strong United Nations is fundamental to the kind of co-operative security that we envisage.

But other organizations also have a role. Our approach to co-operative security recognizes as well the importance of regional responsibility. Even more than the U.S., Canada is a member of many regional organizations where the issue of security has risen to the top of the agenda.

In the Organization of American States, for example, hemispheric security is now a serious matter for discussion, including subjects such as non-proliferation and the control of conventional weapons. In the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), security will be on the agenda this summer for the first time. And in Europe, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization is re-evaluating its role in future security issues.

Whatever the organization, co-operative security will increasingly rely on a range of potential responses on the part of the international community, to provide maximum flexibility, appropriateness -- and anticipation. For example, "peace building" calls on us to use some of our development assistance