

that the latter might also respond, and identify their capabilities, constitutional obligations and policies in regard to regional conflicts.

CURRENT CANADIAN POSITION

During the course of the year, both Secretary of State for External Affairs Barbara McDougall and Prime Minister Brian Mulroney made a number of statements advocating reform of the UN procedures for the operation of peacekeeping missions, and supporting a broader approach to peacekeeping and preventive diplomacy. Speaking to the 46th Session of the UN General Assembly, McDougall noted the importance of effective leadership from the permanent five, and commented:

Canada believes that it is not too soon to start looking ahead to the day when key countries, representing all regions of the globe, are permanent members on the Security Council. In the meantime, our immediate priority is to ensure that the Council, in its present form functions with vision, effectiveness and wisdom. As a starting point, we must strengthen the Council's capacity to take preventive or anticipatory actions. An ability to assess impending flashpoints, engage the necessary political will at the earliest stage, and act effectively and decisively in timely ways, will increase the lead time in reacting to events, and will reduce the security risk by minimizing the element of surprise. Indeed, the very capacity of the UN system to provide early and effective warning may, itself, discourage recourse to conflict.⁵

In the same speech, McDougall addressed the question of member states who had failed to pay their UN dues. Without naming individual countries, she commented:

...all member states must respect their financial obligations. This means paying obligations on time and in full. Given its enhanced role, it is unacceptable that the UN should be paralysed by a lack of sufficient resources because assessments go unpaid.⁶

Several months later, both McDougall and Mulroney spoke more bluntly on the question of financial obligations. Speaking to the World Affairs Council in Los Angeles in March 1992, McDougall said: "It would

⁵ Secretary of State for External Affairs. "Statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Hon. Barbara McDougall, to the 46th Session of the United Nations General Assembly," *Statement*, 91/43, 25 September 1991: 3.

⁶ *Ibid.*: 4.