

range of useful services, it would have to be composed of dedicated military, police and civilian elements.

This workshop provided a clear indication that the issue of a UN rapid deployment capability remains popular. Although far from attracting a consensus, the majority of participants were inclined to elaborate on some form of UN mechanism, while a minority opposed any further discussion of the related options.

Canada's Peacekeeping Agenda

Summary:

Brigadier General Gaston Côté, Directorate of Peacekeeping Policy, Department of National Defence

Canada has a strong commitment to UN peacekeeping operations. However, due to the resource limits on Canada's military, the government has experienced problems with numerous commitments overstressing the Canadian Forces (CF). Better resource management was essential. Moreover, to enhance rapid deployment Canada adopted a policy of 'early-in' and 'early out'. Aside from being quicker in, there would have to be an exit strategy and an assurance of replacements. The Department of National Defence (DND) was devoting a lot of attention to rapid deployment.

It was noted that there were also problems with regard to peacebuilding initiatives. It is essential for work on this level to begin immediately upon deployment to prevent development lag. As well, work must be done to facilitate communication between DND, DFAIT and CIDA; these organizations should play complementary roles with regard to post-conflict reconstruction and development whereas they are currently competing with one another in what is occasionally a non-constructive dialogue. It may be beneficial to include civilian experts in this effort.

Brigadier General Côté went on to argue that UN rapid deployment capabilities must be improved in order to provide truly valuable assistance to conflict areas in a cost effective manner. Small groups of thugs can be brought under control if a strong fighting force is on the ground in a timely manner. This was among the reasons explaining the Canadian Forces' support of SHIRBRIG, as well as its active campaign to recruit a broader membership for the brigade. It was also acknowledged that with a Canadian due