



PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSES UN

Prim Minister Jean Chrétien addressed the United Nations General Assembly on the occasion of the opening of its 58th session on September 23, speaking on “the responsibility to protect.” The following are excerpts from his speech.

As you all know, Canada has always believed in multilateral approaches to global opportunities and problems. We believe in this multilateral cooperation not as an ideology, but as a proven way to enhance security and solve over-arching problems.

Multilateral cooperation is indispensable to ensuring the well-being of citizens and protecting them effectively from harm.

On no issue is progress more necessary or more difficult than the protection of the innocent.

Canada, in partnership with others, advocates putting the protection of

people at the heart of the mandate of this organization.

Too often, conflicts are allowed to ignite, even when the whole world can see what the dreadful consequences will be. Too often, innocent civilians are left to their fate.

The most fundamental duty of a state is to protect its people. When a government cannot—or will not—do so, the responsibility to protect them becomes temporarily a collective international responsibility.

We believe...that in the face of large-scale loss of life or ethnic cleansing, the international community has a moral responsibility to protect the vulnerable. The primary

purpose must be to avert and end human suffering.

No entity is more appropriate than the UN Security Council to authorize military action to protect the innocent. But the member states of the Council have sometimes failed the innocent. Past failures must motivate us to prepare better for future crises. We can reform how this place works. Improve its effectiveness. Enhance its relevance. Inspire its participants. ♣

For the full text of the Prime Minister’s UN address please see: www.pm.gc.ca.

REACHING OUT TO CANADIANS AND THE WORLD

The Campbellton *Tribune* in northern New Brunswick is a typical Canadian community newspaper, its pages filled with reports on local people and events usually found in a weekly publication with a circulation of under 5,000. Recently, however, its readers have been finding articles typically seen in major dailies, with titles such as “Canada and Afghanistan.” The change stems from briefings by senior officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), the Department of National Defence (DND) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), attended by a group of

community newspaper journalists from across the country, including *Tribune* Editor Bill Clarke. The briefings were organized by DFAIT’s Outreach and Public Affairs section, part of the Department’s Communications Bureau.

The task of the Outreach section is to show Canadians how international events affect their lives and to explain Canada to non-Canadians. To do this, it organizes visits to Canada by foreign opinion leaders, speaking tours across Canada by DFAIT experts, and programs for regional and ethnic media and journalism schools in Canada.

The effort to explain Canada’s mission in Afghanistan is a good

example of the work Outreach does. While the Media Outreach Program gave briefings on Afghanistan, the section’s Foreign Visitors Program provided senior fellows from Harvard University’s Weatherhead Center for International Affairs with information on Canada’s foreign policy approach in Afghanistan. In addition, experts from DFAIT, DND and CIDA participated in a community briefing in Toronto, organized by the section’s Speakers Program and involving members of the academic world, the Canadian Afghan community, think-tanks and the mainstream media. ♣