

Outside the area covered by the North Atlantic Alliance, the first responsibility, and opportunity, of all states today is to support and encourage the UN to discharge its security functions. With the end of the Cold War, it is almost as though we *have* reinvented the United Nations. Today's world community might want to build it in slightly different form, and we may have to undertake the difficult business of renovations in order to up-date the institution and its global legitimacy.

Western countries should never forget that the North Atlantic Alliance was only viewed as a necessary stop-gap because of the Cold War's paralysis of the global security system and the rule of law. The paralysis has lifted. For the first time since 1945, there is a serious prospect that the UN system could come to play its intended roles, and Canada and other western countries can and should be its first supporters in doing so. While the selection process for a new Secretary-General fell short of some of the more ambitious hopes for the dawn of a new and streamlined era in the UN, there is now a substantial momentum behind the organizational reform proposals of the "Wilensky Group" of Ambassadors. Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali has indicated his own awareness that his early decisions and actions will heavily influence the UN's prospects for effectiveness in coming years, and the extraordinary rallying of Security Council members, at the summit level, serves to underline the new potential.

We will in any event have to prepare ourselves militarily to contribute in more effective and balanced ways to UN operations, and the Western countries' practice of working together in NATO will continue to be a major operational asset to the UN. We must also still continue to be prepared to act under the Charter's provisions for self-defence and collective defence when the UN itself cannot get the necessary agreement to act.

To date, the preoccupation of Western countries in coping with the peaceable integration of their former adversaries has not led, as many in the developing world had feared, to the diversion of massive aid resources away from their continuing critical needs. It is undeniable, however, that public and policy attention in the West have been drawn away to these new challenges and that financial flows from governments must ultimately follow such policy priorities. At the same time, it is clear that government-to-government foreign aid, in its traditional forms, is increasingly difficult for hard-pressed finance ministries to justify, whether it be for North-South or East-West transfers. Thus trade opportunities, and the capacity to attract foreign capital and technology, will more than ever be