

new spirit also manifests itself in the search for long-term solutions to the enduring problems of the Middle East.

Canada is playing an active part in this undertaking. I would like to share with you today my thoughts on the matter, along with certain initiatives that the Prime Minister is announcing today in Ottawa and that Canada intends to pursue in the months ahead.

To begin with, we must, above all, be realistic. For Canada at this stage to claim to have the answers to the problems of the Middle East would be presumptuous. Why? Simply because it is first and foremost the business of the countries in the region to together find solutions to these problems once the war is over. No lasting solution can be imposed from outside. A commitment on the part of the countries immediately involved is essential to stability and security in this region.

This having been said, the task is a considerable one and will also require the co-operation of the countries beyond the Middle East. In fact, many of the causes of instability in this region, such as the central problem of the proliferation of arms, call for solutions that would involve the whole international community. We will also have to count on the mobilization of international resources, notably those of the United Nations, to respond to the humanitarian and security problems that have been aggravated by Saddam Hussein's adventurism.

Let us now look at what the post-war issues will be, and what kind of contribution a country like ours can make.

#### IMMEDIATE POST-WAR ISSUES

To begin with, three pressing questions will arise once the objectives of the Security Council resolutions have been achieved and the ceasefire has been established:

- humanitarian assistance will have to be provided to the civilian populations and to displaced persons;
- a peacekeeping force will have to be established;
- the damage caused to the environment by the huge oil slicks in the Gulf will have to be repaired.