

For our part, Canadians must learn the lessons of Somalia, Bosnia, Haiti and Rwanda. To this end, my Government has recently established a peacekeeping training centre at Cornwallis, Nova Scotia. We are in the process of determining how such a centre can best meet the requirements of Canada's peacekeeping roles and the needs of the UN. We want this facility to be open to train peacekeepers from all regions of the world. I am looking forward to hearing your views on how we might best further develop this concept.

Finally, although it is not on your agenda, there is one other issue I would like to bring to your attention: the financing of peacekeeping operations. It is obvious that funding issues will affect whatever else you decide here. Canada believes that all Member States should pay their bills in full and on time. We do, and we find it unacceptable that while we meet this obligation, others do not. Reforms will be made over time, but countries should pay their debts when they are due.

You are here to advance a process which I am convinced will lead to the elaboration of a new peacekeeping strategy, and to the fostering of the necessary political commitment. I believe that the Secretariat, with our support, should be in a position to present new ideas to the General Assembly this autumn. It may take several more such meetings to achieve this objective. It may take a sustained programme of work over a period of months, but it must be done.

In setting up this meeting, we worked with the Secretariat to encourage your Governments to send experienced experts with the necessary skills to make the required decisions. It is your job over the coming days to begin the process of ensuring that our United Nations will have the ability to respond to calls for peacekeeping forces when and where its Members decide. I know that you will seize the opportunity with imagination and vigour.

Thank you, and good luck.