

In the area of security, Canada will contribute to the military implementation force, which will assist in the implementation of the military aspects of the peace agreement. As well, we will support the negotiation of confidence-building measures and arms' limits in the former Yugoslavia. We welcome the forthcoming Bonn conference that will focus on these issues. We will also support the setting up of a regional table on Balkans security, possibly within the framework of the European Stability Pact.

We are also ready to contribute to multilateral assistance toward economic reconstruction. In addition, we are prepared to consider the possibility of some debt relief within the Paris Club framework, if the eligibility requirements for such relief are met. It is important that the reconstruction process be effectively co-ordinated. This will require the World Bank to play a central role.

Mr. Chairman,

The peace agreement initialled in Dayton, and to be signed in Paris, marks only the end of the war; it must also mark the beginning of a long process of reconstruction and rehabilitation. It is fundamental to long-term stability that a multilateral reconstruction effort not seek to reward or punish past behaviour but, instead, be available to all those in need.

We congratulate the parties to the peace agreement on their success in ending a conflict that has destroyed so much. We call upon them to work co-operatively in the next critical phase of implementation, in the same spirit of maturity and compromise that allowed for the successful conclusion of the peace negotiations in Dayton.

Thank you.