

Mr. President, the record is much less positive in the area of peace and security. We can do more to make creative use of the machinery under the existing Charter to facilitate the peaceful settlement of specific disputes.

My government wants the independence, sovereignty, and genuine non-alignment of Afghanistan restored, and foreign forces withdrawn from that battered country. We support the continued efforts of the Secretary-General and his special representative to accomplish this.

We support the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in their efforts to bring peace to the unfortunate country of Kampuchea, which continues to be occupied unlawfully.

Canada regrets the extension to Central America of East-West confrontation and the related militarization of the area. We applaud the initiative, skill and tenacity of Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico and Panama (the Contadora countries) in their efforts to build a framework of reconciliation in the spirit of the UN Charter. We also welcome the opening of a direct dialogue between the USA and Nicaragua.

We need a negotiated settlement to end the suffering and destruction of the war between Iran and Iraq. We support the Secretary-General in building upon his recent success in obtaining the agreement of the belligerents to cease attacks on civilian population centres. His sending of a team to investigate allegations of the use of chemical weapons was also a useful action.

Canada hopes that the Lebanese government's current efforts to restore peace and stability in that tragic country will be rewarded. We support Lebanon's territorial integrity and maintain that all foreign troops should withdraw unless present at the request of the Lebanese government. Canadians were appalled by the recent act of terrorism in which so many people were killed and wounded at the US embassy in Beirut.

We strongly support a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute based on Security Council Resolution 242, which provides for the right of all states, including Israel, to live within secure and recognized boundaries. We also support the realization of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians, including their right to a homeland within a clearly-defined territory, the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

We should remind ourselves that UN peacekeeping forces and observer missions continue to be essential in a number of troubled areas of the world. All member states have a responsibility to contribute to the support of these operations. In particular, we ask member states to respond positively to the appeal by the Secretary-General for additional voluntary contributions for the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus. While peacekeeping forces can help to reduce the risk of open conflict, lasting peace can be achieved only through reasonable political compromise. In this spirit, we applaud the constructive participation of the leaders of the two Cypriot communities in the proximity talks held during the past two weeks under the auspices of the Secretary-General. We welcome the announced renewal of the exchanges next week, and urge the parties to seize this opportunity for progress toward a just and lasting settlement.