

The situation also poses a direct challenge to the principles enshrined in the Charter of Paris and the aspirations of all participating countries in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe for the peaceful settlement of disputes.

We have called for the establishment of a peacekeeping mission and have indicated that we are ready to contribute resources to such a mission. Last week, both the Serbian-dominated Yugoslav presidency and Croatia have, at last, called for the UN to send peacekeepers, though they are not in agreement over some vital issues of where the warring forces will be separated.

The UN Secretary-General's special envoy, Cyrus Vance, and the Under-Secretary-General responsible for peacekeeping are now in Yugoslavia to see what can be done. Our monitors remain there in co-ordination with the European Community, who is the one that is directing the monitoring process and is the one who makes the decisions on where members of the monitoring mission go.

Such a peacekeeping effort could have several roles, some of which have been alluded to earlier tonight: first, the supervision of a ceasefire and the disengagement of rival forces; second, basic protection for the security of minority groups in the republics; third, assistance in the distribution of humanitarian aid and the return of displaced persons to their homes; fourth, the supervision of relief for blockaded army camps and a general monitoring of the activities of the Yugoslav army; fifth, the reconfirmation of existing borders within Yugoslavia; sixth, assistance in the re-opening of crucial road and rail networks; and, finally, the establishment of confidence-building measures at the grassroots level between the rival factions.

Once again, these are steps that Canada has urged in every forum. It is a large order, but it does follow the concept of moving from peace to harmony.

Canada stands ready and willing to contribute to such a comprehensive peacekeeping mission, and we have been from the beginning.

But, even to contemplate peace, the leaders of the parties to this conflict in Yugoslavia must be brought to the bargaining table for genuine discussions.

This necessity presents a difficult dilemma for countries outside the conflict -- how to force the issue without further hurting the people who are already affected.

As in other areas of conflict, Canada has sought to use economic and political levers for peace in an even-handed way, while at the same time providing humanitarian assistance to the victims of the violence.