

The safe areas called for in the Washington plan of action, monitored by UNPROFOR [United Nations Protection Force] troops protected by U.S. air power, can be a useful short-term step to protect the civilian populations on a temporary basis. But the real goal must be a fair, long-term solution. And we are making it clear in New York today that, as far as Canada is concerned, the Bosnian Serbs cannot -- nor can the Croats -- keep territory taken by force.

We support fully the containment of the crisis. The presence of U.S. ground troops in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and an increased international presence in Kosovo, would be extremely significant steps to that end.

The difficulty faced by the international community in developing a concerted approach to the conflict in the former Yugoslavia and to the infinite complexity of the Balkans should not deter us from continuing our efforts. To give up now would be to encourage further conflicts of the same nature and will lead to widespread disillusionment among states struggling with democratic reforms.

Canada has done its part to help, but the challenges still ahead of us require a collective effort. All UN member-states must live up to their responsibilities in this conflict, or we will send a signal to others that aggression, violence and hatred are condoned or at least left unchallenged by the international community.

Canadians should feel vindicated by our commitment to a philosophy of multilateralism and collective security. We have been steadfast in our resolve through good times and through bad. The Canadian approach is now being adopted by a growing number of countries. The UN is being given a second chance, as the Security Council regains its authority and is able to act decisively on key issues of peace and security. This means that the UN can play a central role in preventing and managing conflicts, providing member-states provide it with the resources and support -- financial and otherwise -- to proceed along its new course.

Much of this new approach is contained in the UN Secretary-General's report, "Agenda for Peace," an approach I heartily endorsed last September in my speech to the UN General Assembly. Canada played an important role in the development of this document, and we have already taken steps to address some of the Secretary-General's concerns. In addition to our participation in ongoing peacekeeping missions, we have provided experts to assist the Secretariat in developing a viable stand-by program. We are now discussing the provision of stand-by forces with the UN. Canada is also sponsoring a major UN program to develop that