
Preliminary planning for post-war peacekeeping operations is already being undertaken at UN headquarters. We and others have repeatedly stressed the advantages of ensuring that any peacekeeping contingent or force be composed primarily if not exclusively of countries of the region, with minimum non-Arab elements. Given the large peacekeeping tasks that will be required and the minimum amount of experience regional countries have had as peacekeepers, some sustained involvement by other countries may well be required. Canada is willing to make its expertise and experience available to assist this programme. In particular, we have, both through our contacts with the Secretary General, and informally through his staff, made clear our willingness to consider participation in any such operation planned for Kuwait and to assist in advance planning. We are willing to cooperate with the UN to host a small gathering of specialists to review the likely requirements and some of the alternatives that might be best explored.

On the environmental front, there will be a short-term need for a collective willingness to share in an international effort to clean up the damage created by Iraq's release of crude oil into the Gulf. In addition, legal experts could be brought together to explore ways of strengthening international law dealing with the use of environmental spoilage as an instrument of war or international extortion, either through expanding the effectiveness of existing arrangements or through a new international instrument.

PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE LONGER TERM

Simultaneous with the initial disengagement and peacekeeping of a post-ceasefire period will be a period when regional security will rely relatively heavily on deterrence and possibly containment. The objective should be, however, to move away from any deterrence/containment phase towards broader regional security, based on guaranteed borders and an effective collective defence relationship among the states in the region.

At least in the short to medium term, regional arrangements by themselves will likely be insufficient to provide adequate guarantees for the states in the Gulf. International guarantees may be required. Ideally, any external guarantees should be under the aegis of the UN, with external forces in the area reduced to a minimum.