

First, Canada's current military spending is \$11.5 billion. In real terms this ranks Canada sixth in military expenditures among its NATO allies. While the Alliance calls on Canada to match the NATO average of 2.1 percent of GDP, NATO's military spending is already greater than the rest of the world combined and is 18 times greater than all seven so-called "rogue" states put together. Perhaps it is not a case of Canada spending too little on the preparation for war, but its NATO allies spending too much.

Though Canada's defence budget was cut 25 percent in the 1990s, its foreign aid programs have been gutted by almost 40 percent. Official Development Assistance now hovers at \$2 billion, or 0.28 percent of GNP, the lowest level ever in Canada. This is practically out of sight of the established UN target of 0.7 percent of GNP and yet some would cut it even more and give the proceeds to the military.

Those who seek to cut foreign aid further should re-examine the premises of development policy, taking into account that poverty and under-development is the leading cause of violent conflict. Of states in the bottom half of the annual *Human Development Index* in 1998, almost half (41 percent) experienced war on their territories within the previous decade, while only 15 percent of states in the top half of the index had experienced war within the same period. No amount of military strength can effectively confront this challenge to international peace and security.

Second, this new political thinking virtually writes off the United Nations as an instrument of peace, ignoring the 172 peaceful settlements that have ended regional conflicts, which the UN has negotiated since 1945. If the UN is not yet a perfect instrument, neither is NATO, which violated its own charter in the bombing of Kosovo.

For Canada, both the UN and NATO are important vehicles for us to express Canadian values. NATO's militaristic solutions to problems cannot be allowed to overcome the UN's steady development of international law and peacekeeping measures in the resolution of conflict.

There are times when the use of force may be legitimate in the pursuit of peace, but unless the UN Security Council is restored to its pre-eminent position as the sole source of legitimate force, the world is perilously forgoing law for anarchy. Ultimately, it was UN Security Council Resolution 1244 that ended the Kosovo war, providing for an international military and civilian presence "under United Nations auspices" to keep the peace. It is a tragic irony that, after all NATO's destruction, the Kosovo war ended with an agreement that could have been reached before the bombing. The rejection of international law for national interest is not a suitable pillar upon which to build a viable system of international peace and justice.

Third, the Alliance asserts that the idea of eliminating nuclear weapons is based on the "naïve belief that the knowledge of how to make such weapons, and the will that some states will always have to acquire them can simply be made to go away". This view toward Canadian policies on nuclear weapons and their elimination is equally incongruous with present needs and reality.