

need for a catalyst that can mobilize and bring together ideas, actions and funds. In the light of this, we have decided to launch a Canadian Peacebuilding Initiative.

As the term "initiative" implies, we are taking the first steps in what we expect to be a longer-term process. We already possess many of the tools needed to respond to complex emergencies - many Canadians within government and outside of it are already engaged in peacebuilding - but we need to create a new way of organizing our activities. Our aim is not to take over existing activities, but rather to ensure that they work together in a coherent manner.

To do this we must ask ourselves a number of questions:

- what our peacebuilding priorities are, both geographically and in terms of niches in which to establish Canadian expertise;
- what measures are needed in a particular situation;
- who the best people are to do the job;
- where the resources for training and deployment will come from;
- how to get people and resources into the field as quickly as possible; and
- how to mobilize the considerable pool of Canadian expertise and co-ordinate with the peacebuilding initiatives of others.

These questions are part of the reason I am here today: because we need your ideas, your energy and your expertise to help us answer these questions in order to make the Initiative work. For the same reason, at my request, the National Forum on Foreign Policy is focussing on peacebuilding as one of its two themes in its current round of discussions. Two sessions on peacebuilding have been held in the past week - one in Halifax, the other in Victoria. The results have highlighted for me a number of factors we need to build into this initiative - such as drawing upon Canada's multicultural society as a resource for peacebuilding.

In my speech at the United Nations last month, I announced one concrete measure that will form part of this initiative - the creation of a roster of Canadian human rights experts, who would be available at short notice to the UN Centre for Human Rights, for example, to help verify and implement peace accords. Today, I would like to announce two further measures that the Government is prepared to undertake immediately to launch the Initiative.

The first is to bring NGO experts into the policy-making process. Accordingly, I would like to convene a formal consultation on peacebuilding, in co-operation with the members of the NGO-led Peacebuilding Contact Group. This would take place in conjunction with our annual consultations with NGOs on human rights, early in 1997.

The second is to establish a Peacebuilding Fund, at the level of \$10 million, next fiscal year. This is not a large fund aimed at financing all Canadian initiatives under

the rubric of peacebuilding. Nor is it meant to finance related activities that are already being addressed by other mechanisms, such as de-mining, demobilization of troops, restoration of capital infrastructure, return of refugees and displaced persons, and long-term development assistance. Rather it is designed to fill urgent gaps in Canadian programming and, above all, to act as a catalyst, to spark new approaches and to mobilize Canadian talent and expertise.

The Minister for International Co-operation and I will jointly determine and approve initiatives under the Fund. More important, we intend to work together to streamline decision making, co-ordinate activities within Canada and beyond, ensure broad consultation and information sharing, and speed up our response to crises. Other federal departments and NGOs will be brought on board to ensure a coherent political, military, humanitarian and development assistance approach to complex emergencies.

I would like to challenge Canadians to consider the contribution they might make to this initiative. It is the Government's job to formulate our policies and define our priorities in support of peacebuilding. But the Government cannot do the job alone; we have neither the resources nor the expertise. If this initiative is going to work, we need people like you. We need Canadians who are committed to promoting peace, who understand the international environment, and who have skills that could be put to good use in rebuilding war-torn societies.

## Conclusion

We are living through a profound shift in the conduct of international relations. The old, Cold War thinking on security between states is being replaced by a new approach focussed on sustainable human security. Canada should be at the forefront of that shift, not only because of what we have to offer to others, but because it is in our own interest to do so. Peacebuilding sets us on the road to a secure, equitable and sustainable international environment in which Canada can flourish. Canada has traditionally been a leader in peacekeeping operations. My aim is to move us toward being a leader in peacebuilding.

The Canadian Peacebuilding Initiative will give us the means to mobilize Canadian expertise in support of peacebuilding. It will give us the tools we need to respond quickly and effectively to the complex requirements of building peace - putting in place the elements necessary to promote trust and confidence among diverse communities *within* states. The same tools will enable us to promote co-operative relations *between* states in ways that contribute to real human security - not simply the false and cold peace of military armed stand-offs. The Israeli statesman Abba Eban said: "Men and nations do behave wisely - once all other alternatives have been exhausted." The Canadian Peacebuilding Initiative is designed to ensure that we do not have to exhaust all other options before we take definitive action to build peace.