

and cruel treatment of inmates, innocent or otherwise. No wonder our publics have every reason to believe the worst concerning these camps.

The courage of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is exceptional, and it must be assisted in its vital work of ensuring humane treatment of all prisoners and captives.

Representatives of those engaged in the conflict in Bosnia, present here today, must bear in mind their personal duty to ensure that the Geneva Conventions are fully observed in every village and every camp.

The tragic plight of those driven from their homes by fear, by fighting or by "ethnic cleansing" has touched us all. Neighbouring areas and countries have had to bear a particularly heavy burden and need international help and support.

The international organizations that are central to dealing with the humanitarian situation require generous support. Canada will contribute \$15 million to the UNHCR's next appeal, and will also contribute \$5 million to the ICRC to help specifically with its work with prisoners of war and in hostages/others in the camps.

With such issues as these at stake, and so many lives at risk, this Conference cannot afford to fail. We cannot accept the implications of such a defeat. We cannot accept that "ethnic cleansing" be legitimized and that those outside the law continue to impose their will with impunity. The parties that are responsible will be liable and the states that condone what is happening will be ostracized. They will find themselves pariahs, cut off from the community of nations in every aspect of normal discourse and relations.

There can and should be another way ahead. Leadership in the region must abandon their unrealistic dug-in positions that serve no purpose except that of their own ambition. Surely it's not too much to ask for good faith and sincere commitment to the pursuit of peace. We can make real progress here toward reaching a future free of violence and cruelty and discord, one that is in the interest of everyone present and most particularly of the people they lead.