

have produced over the months, and with much dedication, a comprehensive package. This should form the basis of new political, security and territorial arrangements for Bosnians. This is the only proposal available to the parties and they must all negotiate seriously on this basis.

We have been active with the parties urging them to find a meaningful and fair compromise. This is precisely the message that our ambassador to the UN delivered to Dr. Karadzic, on my instructions, last Friday. Any party that stands in the way of a political compromise will face further international condemnation and isolation. We are ready to do whatever we can to help in the difficult search for peace.

[*English*]

That includes of course and must include the provision of humanitarian assistance until this horrifying and tragic war is brought to an end.

Canadians continue to demonstrate their solidarity and their compassion for those who have been forced into these terrible situations and who are suffering all forms of human degradation. Our government will continue to provide support for these unfortunate people in reflection of what Canadians have expressed they want us to do.

To channel this humanitarian assistance we have chosen to utilize international relief organizations. We have disbursed over \$25 million through the United Nations and other organizations. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, UNICEF, the World Health Organization, the World Food Program, the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations volunteers, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have been our agents. We have found in them close co-operation.

• (1510)

We have intentionally chosen to let those with expertise and objectivity assess the requirements. We have consistently told these organizations that our intention is to help those most in need with what they most urgently require.

We know it is not enough. We know that governments and public institutions in the region are barely capable of

### *Routine Proceedings*

coping with hundreds of thousands of refugees and displaced persons. The economies of these countries have been decimated.

[*Translation*]

We have addressed what we believe to be the number one priority: to help those who have been expelled by warfare and to counter the ignominious practice of ethnic cleansing.

First and foremost, we must ensure that people receive food, medicine and shelter, but we must also deal with the social and emotional legacies of war. In December 1992 and again last Friday, I announced a specific grant to assist the victims of sexual violence. Canadians have been outraged by the rape and sexual assault of women and children in this war. The victims of these repugnant crimes require our urgent assistance.

Both the Minister responsible for the Status of Women and myself indicated on Friday that Canada will provide a further \$1.5 million to address these needs. Our contribution will help UNHCR and UNICEF provide women and children with medical supplies, rape-trauma counselling services, food, clothing and shelter.

[*English*]

Today, I am pleased to announce a further contribution of \$9.5 million in response to the ongoing international appeals. We will help the World Food Program, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and UNICEF to continue their activities.

This new contribution outlines Canada's continuing concern for those who are suffering. By channelling our assistance through these established agencies we know that we are addressing identified shortages. We know that our contribution will be directed to and received by those most in need.

As this House knows, the Canadian forces are present on the ground in Bosnia as part of the UN Protection Force. Our troops, a battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment, have already begun the task of ensuring safe delivery of humanitarian assistance in eastern Bosnia, an area of great need. Our forces have also brought large quantities of food and medical supplies by air to Sarajevo during more than 354 missions. Our men and women operate under the most hazardous of conditions with