

Namibia, the last colony in Africa, is now its newest democracy. We take great pride in the UN's role in assisting Namibia make its transition to independence, an effort which was truly global, involving 109 members of this Organization.

In South Africa, Nelson Mandela is free and he and President De Klerk are on the verge of beginning a process of negotiation which must build a non-racial, democratic South Africa. We applaud this progress, and look forward to the day when there is clear and irreversible change in the apartheid regime. We call upon all in South Africa to work to bring an end to the murderous violence which casts a shadow over the negotiations process.

In Cambodia, the parties to that long and bloody conflict may be on the path toward peace. Canada applauds the unanimity displayed by the Security Council when it approved last week a framework for a comprehensive political solution in that country. We hope that this will set Cambodia on the road to any early, just, lasting and peaceful settlement. Canada's support is unequivocal in that effort and we have already pledged \$1.5 million to help the UN give effect to its plans.

Elsewhere in Asia, the government of South Korea has taken a welcome initiative in beginning talks with its northern neighbour. We look forward to South Korea assuming its place as a full and active member of the Organization, as soon as possible.

In Latin America, the UN's unique experience and expertise in peacekeeping has been invaluable. The ceasefire in Nicaragua, the successful conclusion of the democratic process there, and progress in talks in El Salvador and Guatemala may finally bring hope to a region torn too long by conflict and ideology.

And in the Persian Gulf, the United Nations is acting as it has not been able to for decades. It is acting to bring the authority of the international community to bear on a country which has grossly and clearly contravened the UN Charter's prohibition on aggression and the solemn undertakings of all UN members to settle disputes by pacific means.

The ability of the Security Council to act in concert is testimony to the new era of co-operation now open to us. It is also a warning to Iraq that the UN will not relent until it has withdrawn from Kuwait and restored independence to that small country.

But we need more than resolutions. All members of the UN should ensure the effectiveness of the measures agreed to date and use whatever diplomatic resources are available to persuade Iraq to withdraw.

Iraq's aggression is a litmus test for what the United Nations can now become. If we succeed here, the United Nations will send a clear and unambiguous signal to others that the world is now different. That it will not tolerate aggression and that international law is to be obeyed and not ignored.