



earlier this year. This week, at the meeting of NATO ministers, I was able to build a consensus around Canada's view that NATO needs to develop new measures to deal with war criminals in Bosnia.

We have also been active in broadening our influence within our own hemisphere in the past year. We have been trading and signing treaties, preventing conflict and building peace, selling Canadian information technology and providing Canadian expertise, with our partners in the Americas. During their May 1996 meeting with Prime Minister Chretien and myself, the presidents of the Central American countries asked that Canada share with them its experience in information technology in areas such as distance learning.

In Haiti, Canada took command of the United Nations mission in 1996. This is more than a traditional peacekeeping mission. We have been using development assistance funds to build peace by developing Haitians' capacity to govern themselves. We have been training police, the coast guard, judges and grassroots organizations - all key players in a peaceful, healthy society.

We have worked to address some of the underlying concerns that we share with others about the situation in Cuba. To support a peaceful evolution in Cuba to a society with full respect for human rights, genuinely representative institutions and an open economy, we have moved into new areas of co-operation with Cuba. We have sponsored seminars on such issues as comparative law. We are discussing with Cuba how Canadian expertise could contribute to an improved justice system or parliamentary committee structure. Our disagreements with Cuba on human rights and good governance are not going to disappear overnight, and we continue to express them regularly, including at the UN. But we continue to work with Cuba, on the basis of a belief that

dialogue and engagement, in a spirit of mutual respect, offer the promise of peaceful change in a way that confrontation and isolation do not.

To round off a year of activism, I will be joining a gathering of international dignitaries in Guatemala on December 29, to witness the signature of the Guatemalan Peace Accord. When I met the Guatemalan Foreign Minister recently in Ottawa, we discussed ways Canada could assist the implementation of the Accord. Our objective is to help Guatemala make a peaceful transition to an open society, one in which human rights are respected and development is more equitable.

Looking Ahead: Shaping a New Tool Kit

As you can see, we have accomplished a great deal in the past year. But I recognize that there remains a pressing need to refurbish and broaden our foreign policy tool kit as we face the challenges of the coming millennium. In recent speeches, I have announced the launch of initiatives in two areas that are crucial to the renewal of our foreign policy: peacebuilding and an international information strategy.

In October, at York University, I announced a new Canadian Peacebuilding Initiative, including a special peacebuilding fund, financed by CIDA [Canadian International Development Agency]. At that time, I outlined my own belief that peacebuilding is a crucial tool in dealing with the new forms of conflict that have come to characterize the international landscape at the end of the century. The initiative will respond to the need, identified in your discussions, to co-ordinate existing peacebuilding efforts and to establish networks, improve preparedness and set priorities.

More recently, I have outlined my views on the need for a Canadian International Information Strategy - a strategy that uses knowledge, information and information technology in