

In Canada, it was seen, rightly, as a victory for the United Nations and for right over wrong.

The United Nations

Canada has always been a staunch defender and supporter of the U.N., and as the U.N. pursues its objectives with renewed vigour, the wisdom of that loyalty is clear. We have been calling for structural change at the UN to ensure that it is better equipped to deal with contemporary challenges.

Therefore, we're pleased that the Security Council, in an unprecedented summit level meeting just over a month ago, called for a report on how to strengthen the world organization's effectiveness. Since then, large peacekeeping forces have been designed for two of the world's most volatile trouble spots, Yugoslavia and Cambodia. They are costly, as some of your own Congressmen pointed out yesterday, but the alternatives are costlier. War is not cheap.

In some cases, as well, these operations may be dangerous. Canada, in agreeing to go to Yugoslavia -- we are the largest contingent in the force -- accepts the danger because we cannot accept standing aside to witness killing and destruction. We have to conclude sometimes that there are parties to such conflicts who will not reason, to whom sanctions or incentives are meaningless.

The problem is that Saddam Hussein, the Khmer Rouge, or out-of-control and overarmed bands of racist thugs seem to happen. I know -- I saw some nervous guns in Haiti shortly after the overthrow of President Aristide.

The United Nations is our best hope, but we have to work at it, and we have to fund it appropriately. It would help if many countries, including the U.S., would pay their bills.

But the UN is not our only instrument. The Organization of American States (OAS), including Canada, took a strong stand in Haiti and we must stand by our objective to ensure that democracy returns to that tragic little country.

The Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) also has a role. With effort, conflicts can be prevented beforehand. The sorts of conciliation and confidence-building mechanisms we are building in the CSCE can help to get at problems before the shooting starts.

The best news is that, as the numbers of democracies increase, there is an easier consensus as to what to do. Tyrannies can no longer take refuge in their presumed right to do whatever they want within their own borders. A doctrine of humanitarian