

GIVING PARLIAMENT A GREATER SAY

- The days of managing Canada's international relations as if the elected representatives of Canadians do not exist are over. The Government believes that Parliament has a right to debate major foreign policy initiatives such as the deployment of peacekeeping forces.
- These are not just nice words and intentions. The Government has already consulted Parliament on issues such as peacekeeping and cruise missile testing by means of special debates in the House of Commons. It is also giving MPs an opportunity to state their views on the broad directions of Canada's foreign and defence policies through this debate.
- The Government is also counting on Parliament to give Canadians a greater say in the broad directions of our foreign policy. The Government proposes that parliamentary committees will organize public hearings across Canada this spring and summer. The Government's statement on Canada's international relations this fall will take into account the findings and recommendations of these parliamentary hearings.