

people serving in UN forces in the last three years, it is obvious that UN headquarters must be better equipped to plan and manage its operations around the world.

The time for reform is now:

- Let's give the United Nations a permanent general staff to plan and conduct its peacekeeping operations.
- Let's establish a UN military college to train a corps of officers who can work effectively together.
- Let's ensure that the UN has the ability to stockpile equipment and to airlift material and personnel quickly to a theatre of operations.
- Let's develop a code of conduct and common operating procedures for all personnel under the UN flag. The UN suffers from the same problems of interoperability that have plagued NATO over the years. And finally,
- Let's pledge our countries to commit troops on a stand-by basis for use by the Secretary-General on short notice as crises develop.

Other reforms are necessary as well to improve the UN's capacity to act effectively in matters of peace and security, as well as in matters of humanitarian assistance and relief.

First, there is the matter of finances. It is simply unacceptable that the UN Secretary-General must go around the world, cap in hand, urging member countries, large and small, to pay their dues.

The United Nations cannot operate properly if it is constantly facing a financial crisis. Every country that believes in the value of the UN should pay its dues in full and on time. For its part, the UN itself has an obligation to the taxpayers of the world to ensure that it spends every single dollar wisely and properly.

We must also take a good hard look at the structure of the United Nations from two points of view: to make sure that we are making the best use of available resources; and to transform the organizational structure of the UN, including the Security Council, into something that is more relevant to today's world, not to the world as it existed 40 years ago.

Finally, we need to develop more effective working relations between the United Nations and regional institutions. The UN and the OAS [Organization of American States] are showing the way by working together to restore democracy and freedom in Haiti.

I know that this is a tall order, that we can't transform the UN in a day, a month or a year. But when you see the savage brutality of warlords, be they in Somalia or the former Yugoslavia or elsewhere, when you see the looks of terror and despair in the eyes of hundreds of thousands of refugees, when you see the enormous suffering of so many innocent civilians, can there be any more compelling task than to give ourselves the best possible instrument for promoting peace, democracy and freedom?

Reforming our international institutions so that they can function in a world that is more complex and less predictable than ever before is both our challenge and our reward now that the Cold War has been won. Clarity of vision and unshakeable determination are every bit as necessary today as they were throughout the four decades of struggle through which we have just passed with such great success. We owe our children a safer, freer and more peaceful world. ■

Canada's First Committee Priorities

The 48th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 48) will open in New York on September 21. Arms control and disarmament issues will be considered in the First Committee, where Canada has traditionally played an active role.

Canadian arms control and non-proliferation priorities during the UNGA 47 First Committee were to complete negotiation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and to confirm and strengthen existing global non-proliferation instruments such as the NPT and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. Canada also stressed the importance of initiating multilateral negotiations for a CTBT, of strengthening controls on the export of sensitive technologies, and of developing and applying regional arms control regimes, linking global and regional measures as required.

In addition, Canada initiated a resolution, adopted without a vote, that requested the views of Member States on ways to build upon the 1990 UN Group of Experts study on verification, as well as a resolution on the prohibition of the pro-

duction of fissionable material for weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

With the exception of the CWC, which has been concluded, the Canadian delegation to UNGA 48, led by Ambassador for Disarmament Peggy Mason, will continue to pursue the above objectives. Canada will place particular emphasis on First Committee resolutions that touch on CTBT negotiations. The delegation will also play a lead role in moving forward the process of rationalizing the work of the First Committee by exploiting new opportunities to enhance dialogue and cooperation among former adversaries.

Canada will maintain a strong interest and participation in the following resolutions that are likely to be considered at UNGA 48:

NPT

There will in all likelihood be a resolution on the 1995 NPT extension and review process. Canada will continue to call for the indefinite extension of the NPT and the goal of universal adherence.

Verification

Work has already commenced on a draft Canadian verification resolution that calls for a follow-on UN Group of Experts study to that of 1990.

CTBT

Canada will encourage UNGA to make every effort to support upcoming CTBT negotiations in the CD, particularly regarding the key issue of an effective verification package.

Cut-off

Canada will take its traditional lead on the fissionable material cut-off resolution.

Transparency in Armaments

There will probably be a resolution on the second stage of the work program of the UN arms register. Canada will continue to cosponsor this resolution.

Canada will also chair both the Barton Group and the Group of Democratic and Other States (GODOS), which provide fora for consultation on resolutions. The Barton Group originated during the early 1970s and consists of traditional Western states. GODOS was formed during UNGA 47. It has a broadly-based membership that cuts across traditional East-West and North-South dividing lines. ■