

advanced, as well, by many others in this room, including Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, Ghana, India, Malaysia and Pakistan.

We congratulate New Zealand, during its presidency of the Council this past month, for launching a process of regular consultation with Troop Contributors to UNAMIR [United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda]. This is an excellent example, which we hope will be followed in other cases.

Clearly, ideas are not lacking. What is now required, however, is a firm consensus on both the ideas and on the means of putting them into effect. Ensuring effective political direction and support for peacekeeping operations requires effective mandates from the Security Council, ongoing interaction between the Security Council and the Troop Contributing Nations, and effective ongoing political direction and operational control by the United Nations. These are the issues you must address during your meetings.

Allow me, here, to pay tribute to the Nordic countries in drawing some of these questions to the attention of the General Assembly last fall. Considerable strides have been made by Mr. Annan and his staff in tackling the challenge of managing new and complex peacekeeping missions. The military staff has been expanded significantly. Improvements have been introduced in communications capabilities between New York and the field, for example, the establishment of a 24-hour situation centre.

Canada applauds these initiatives. But the broader challenge of ensuring effective command and control remains. We must examine the UN's ability to organize and launch new missions, the capacity to maintain clear lines of authority and decision-making between UN Headquarters and field missions, and the capacity of UN forces on the ground, often comprised of many different nationalities, to co-ordinate their efforts. Your examination of these difficult questions should help formulate a more robust policy.

Peacekeeping training is recognized as being an issue of increasing importance. As all of us know, the scope of peacekeeping has broadened dramatically in recent years. Today, peacekeeping operations incorporate civilian police, election monitors, humanitarian aid workers and many others. This has often been referred to as the second generation of peacekeeping activities. I am convinced that the enormous range of tasks peacekeepers are called upon to perform today necessitates new thinking on the subject of training. The Secretariat has been working hard to develop guidelines and training materials to meet these needs. Many member states are also wrestling with these issues. In my view, the UN's work in developing basic peacekeeping doctrines and guidelines provides essential input for our discussions of this issue.