

reigns, with clan and sub-clan identities the most important means of deciding the distribution of goods and honours. Bantu farmers in river-plain areas and Swahili communities on the coast have been subject to discrimination by ethnic Somalis.

While concerted efforts by the international community have ended the famine in nearly all of Somalia, security concerns remain. No framework for peace emerged from factional talks in Addis Ababa in December 1993, as the warlords refused to renounce their earlier parochial demands. Mohamed Farah Aideded, leader of the SNA faction which has repeatedly attacked UN personnel in Mogadishu, continues his intractable approach and transparent efforts to become overlord of all Somalia. Like Aideded, other warlords such as Morgan, Jess and Aideded's nemesis Ali Mahdi Mohamed, are positioning themselves for a resumption of civil war, likely upon the departure of USA forces from Somalia.

CANADIAN POSITION

Canada's interest in Somalia centres on our support for effective UN intervention in international crises, and the alleviation of human suffering. We have always maintained that, equally important as the establishment of security, UNOSOM must facilitate humanitarian assistance and political reconciliation. We strongly encourage any measures which will reinforce UN credibility throughout Somalia and the region.

At both the 49th session of the Commission on Human Rights and 48th session of the UN General Assembly, Canada co-sponsored resolutions that were adopted by consensus. The UNGA resolution requests the Commission to consider establishing a group of independent human rights monitors in Somalia. If the Commission acts on this recommendation, this would represent an extension of the previous engagement in Somalia. Last year it appointed an Independent Expert to develop a programme of human rights technical assistance in Somalia and to report to the coming session of CHR.

Somalia's future as a peaceful, productive state depends on durable political reconciliation. Canada encourages UN support for the involvement of regional and Somali leaders, including women and elders, in the process of rebuilding civil society and public administration.

Canada has carried its full share of the burden in Somalia: 1350 military personnel deployed with UNITAF earlier this year, approximately \$40 million in emergency aid intake of some 15,000 refugees. Seven Canadian Forces members are working at UNOSOM headquarters. Canada has recently announced substantial support (\$1.5 million) for UNHCR to assist the voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees from Ethiopia, and a large share of the costs (approx. 28%) for a UNHCR project to help Somali victims of sexual violence in refugee camps near the Kenya-Somalia border. Canada will continue to respond to feasible requests for emergency humanitarian assistance.

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