

We made sure that this effort was in the context of the larger CSCE responsibility and that Canadians participated in the observer teams sent to Yugoslavia by the EC, along with Poland, Sweden and the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic.

But the larger effort was being carried out at the Hague Peace Conference under the Chairmanship of Lord Peter Carrington. We have supported those efforts as being the lead activity and continue to support Lord Carrington.

The UN Charter requires an initial regional effort before a matter goes before the Security Council. The question is, "How long can these efforts be made and made again, while the killing obscenely goes on, before some more resolute action is required?"

Once again, there is not a simple or superficial answer.

First, the Prime Minister and I have condemned, at every step, the violence and the intolerance in the country that have led to the escalation to all-out war.

Second, we have been among the leaders to engage the world community in recognizing the potential fall-out from this tragic crisis.

Canada was the first country to request a meeting of the United Nations Security Council on the Yugoslav situation. The reason that Canada did not speak to that motion is that the rules of the Security Council did not permit us to, despite repeated requests. Our view is that the Yugoslav crisis poses not only a human tragedy of enormous proportions but also a direct threat to international peace and security in the area.

The collapse of an effective governing authority exacerbates the potential for civil strife and further endangers the peace and security of neighbouring countries.

This call for action on the part of the Security Council has been resisted by some of its members who believe that the tragedy of that country remains an internal matter and that Security Council action would constitute interference in its internal affairs. Unfortunately -- despite our own pleading, despite our own lobbying, despite our own work with each and every member of the Security Council, including the permanent five and the rotating members -- that view has been held by one permanent member, China, which has a veto.

We agree that this is outmoded thinking and that it is deeply damaging in the circumstances. We do have some basis to hope that China will soften its stand, but in the meantime there is little that we can do except to try and continue to make the case, as we do daily.