REMARKS BY H.E. MR. PAUL HEINBECKER BEFORE THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL ON THE BRAHIMI REPORT

Monday, November 13, 2000.

Monsieur le Président,

Permettez-moi, pour commencer, de féliciter le Groupe d'étude pour un effort de coopération remarquable et la manière constructive dont il a effectué un travail difficile.

Je voudrais en particulier féliciter et remercier notre président, l'Ambassadeur Curtis Ward, dont les compétences, l'expérience et la sagesse ont permis au Groupe de produire un ensemble de mesures qui contribueront pour beaucoup à renforcer la capacité de l'Organisation des Nations Unies et de ses États Membres de mener efficacement des opérations de paix.

Le travail effectué rend également justice au Secrétaire général pour avoir créé le Groupe d'étude ainsi qu'aux efforts du Groupe d'étude lui-même.

Nous félicitons, une fois de plus, le Secrétaire général d'avoir pris cette initiative et l'Ambassadeur Lakhdar Brahimi d'avoir produit un excellent rapport.

The work we have accomplished gives substance to the hopes that were expressed at the Millennium Summit.

The annex of the resolution is our checklist of measures focussed not only on politics and strategy, but also, and perhaps, even more importantly, on operational and organizational areas of need.

This encompasses mandates, doctrine, information analysis, rapid deployment, conflict prevention, peacebuilding and transitional civil administration.

These are pragmatic and practical measures that, when implemented, will improve the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations.

We would like to highlight particular recommendations consistent with longstanding Canadian concerns.

These include the need for clear and achievable mandates, matching mandates with appropriate resources, and rapid deployment.

We are gratified to note that these priorities are now being addressed.

We are pleased to see included throughout the document provisions for the protection of affected civilian populations.

Canada attaches particular importance to the Council consulting troop and police contributing countries at every stage of the development and evolution of a peacekeeping mission as outlined in paragraphs 16 and 17 of the annex.

This, Mr. President, is essential to ensuring continued engagement by these nations at both the military and political level.

We also believe it to be vitally important that the Council receive timely military advice when considering the creation of a peacekeeping force from those who are directly involved in the military dimension of a peacekeeping mission.

We therefore welcome the call for regular military briefings from the Secretariat, the Force Commander or the Military Adviser.

Once again Canada would like to thank the Working Group for their cooperative effort in developing this comprehensive framework for peacekeeping within which the Council will now work.

We hope this cooperative approach can be replicated in the General Assembly.

The resolution we are adopting today is the first step in implementing the report.

We lend our full support to this resolution.