

Dear Colleagues:

Please find below excerpts from articles on the following:

- Joint Statement from Canada-EU on R2P.
- Newt Gingrich and George Mitchell on the importance of the UN's adoption of R2P precedent at September summit.
- Lloyd Axworthy on R2P as a reorganization of the international system
- MP David Kilgour's criticism of Canadian policy on Darfur .
- Darfur Peace and Accountability Act is passed by the U.S. Senate.
- Jennifer Cook on Darfur and the future of U.S.-A.U. relations.
- Zimbabwe on verge of humanitarian crisis due to Mugabe's forced relocations.
- Phillip Kirsch, President of ICC, on the 60th anniversary of the Nuremberg trials.

Regards,

Gaia Filicori

The November 24 Canada EU Joint Statement includes a strong forward looking reference to R2P:

"The EU and Canada underlined the need for early and full implementation of the reforms agreed at the UN World Summit, and we expressed our support for the plans of the President of the General Assembly, Mr. Jan Eliasson, in particular the commitment to establish a new Peacebuilding Commission and a Human Rights Council, as well as wide-ranging management reforms. We pledged to continue working together on WMD non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control multilaterally. We also welcomed the important agreement on the "Responsibility to Protect". We look forward to seeing these principles reflected in future decisions of the UN Security Council, and agreed to work together to ensure that the "Responsibility to Protect" is implemented by the international community. "

[link to full statement](#)

Report Card from America: UN Reform

By Newt Gingrich, George Mitchell

November 28th, 2005

We were co-chairmen of a bipartisan task force that was authorized by the U.S. Congress late last year to study ways to make the United Nations more effective. The group spanned a very wide range of political and ideological perspectives, and we couldn't agree on everything. But when we issued a consensus report in June, what was most striking was the extent to which we

were able to find common ground, including our most important finding, which was "the firm belief that an effective United Nations is in America's interests."

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Among the findings and our further recommendations:

Human Rights and Genocide Prevention

Our task force called on the U.S. government and the UN to "affirm that every sovereign government has a 'responsibility to protect' its citizens and those within its jurisdiction from genocide, mass killing, and massive and sustained human rights violations." World leaders endorsed this general principle, which is a very significant step in light of past international resistance to any provision that would seem to endorse interference in a state's "sovereign internal affairs."

It is critical that this principle be understood broadly to encompass mass killings and massive and sustained human rights violations, whether or not they meet technical legal standards for genocide . The outcome document's conclusion is also consistent with the task force's view that in certain circumstances, a government's abnegation of its responsibilities to protect its own people is so severe that the failure of the Security Council to act must not be used as an excuse for the world to stand by as atrocities continue.

Darfur

Our task force addressed Darfur directly, recommending a series of immediate initiatives for the United States, the UN and others, including establishment of a no-flight zone. Although the outcome document did not address this issue, it is clear that international action is still urgently needed. African Union troops in Darfur are unable to protect themselves, let alone those they were sent to protect.

(...)

[link to full article](#)

Former foreign minister wants to "re-wire" UN

By Fabian Schweyher

The Budapest Times
November 21, 2005

"After the fall of the Berlin Wall the world began to build networks for a common response, but

these efforts were destroyed by the US's aggressive and go-it-alone stance in the aftermath of 9/11," the Nobel Peace Prize nominee Lloyd Axworthy, said last Thursday in Budapest. "Disasters like the recent hurricanes served as a shock treatment to the world in overturning the trap of obsessive pre-occupation with counter terrorism and recognising the need to rediscover the true meaning of security - the idea of human security."

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Furthermore, the world has the responsibility to protect, said Axworthy, using the conflict in Kosovo as an example. "If a state legitimately protects its citizens then it is in full right of its sovereign power. If it fails to do so, then the international community must assume this function," he said.

This responsibility could become a template for re-organising the global system around a principle that can apply to a wide variety of global issues and set in motion the re-invention of global governance, Axworthy said. He mentioned a Canadian initiative for setting up "white" and "green" helmets to assist in the economic, social and environmental security issues beside "blue" helmets to provide physical security.

"We have a blueprint that could well provide the forthcoming assembly session with a framework in which to re-wire the UN system to make it an effective instrument for responding to the contemporary risks of civil conflict and global calamity," he said.