

CANADIAN POSITION

Canada believes that only a negotiated settlement among all parties in the former Yugoslavia will bring a lasting peace, alleviate the suffering of civilians, and restore respect for human rights. Canada has, therefore, supported all efforts to achieve a negotiated peace, while providing humanitarian assistance.

Canada has consistently led international efforts to investigate and prosecute war crimes in the former Yugoslavia. In March 1993, Canada sponsored an international experts' meeting to establish an international criminal court as well as an International War Crimes Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. With a contribution of \$300,000, Canada was the first country to support the UN Commission of Experts (UNCOE) that investigates alleged war crimes and other violations of international humanitarian law. Canada has participated in three investigations into issues such as sexual assault and mass graves.

In March, Canada contributed a \$233,000 to the trust fund of the War Crimes Tribunal and in September 1993, Canadian Judge Jules Deschênes was elected to the Tribunal. Canada established a position for an Information Co-ordinator to receive information on alleged violations of international humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia and has submitted two reports on alleged war crimes to the UN Security Council. Canada also helped draft the Declaration on the Protection of Victims of War Crimes, which included specific references to the sexual assault of women during times of armed conflict.

Special Canadian immigration measures were introduced in July 1992 to help people from the former Yugoslavia join their relatives in Canada. To date, over 5,000 people have entered Canada under these special measures. In December 1992, Canada responded to an appeal from the UNHCR to resettle Bosnians released by Serb authorities into transit camps in Croatia. Close to 600 ex-detainees and their dependants came to Canada under this program in 1993. Canada also continues to approve claims to Convention refugee status, under both government-assisted and privately-sponsored programs. Since January 1993, more than 4,000 refugees have been admitted to Canada under these programs.

Canada's total contribution in humanitarian assistance for the victims of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia is close to \$60 million, including \$1.75 million designated specifically for victims of sexual violence. Canadian military aircraft have flown more than 1,500 relief flights to Sarajevo as part of the international airlift, delivering more than 20,000 tonnes of food and medical supplies.

Canada's UNPROFOR contingent is the fifth largest: approximately 2,000 Canadian troops now monitor the UNPAs in Croatia, and provide protection for relief convoys and civilians in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police provide 45 police monitors to UNPROFOR.

Canada will continue to support strongly all efforts of the CHR and other institutions and organizations to improve the human rights situation in the former Yugoslavia.