

International JUST



War criminals do not sleep so peacefully these days. What keeps them awake is the awareness that national sovereignty isn't the magic cloak it used to be. The 1990s have seen the creation of institutions with teeth, threatening to bring even the highest-placed offenders within reach of the prosecutors.



THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

The newest of these institutions is the emerging International Criminal Court (ICC). Last year, with strong leadership from Canada, the international community adopted a statute establishing the Court. The ICC will become operational once 60 nations have ratified the statute. This will mark several important new milestones in the development of international law.

For instance, the ICC will be the first *permanent* international court with the power to prosecute individuals for genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and (eventually) crimes of aggression. The Court will be able to act as well against crimes committed not only in wars between nations but in internal conflicts. Canada was instrumental in the achievement of a gender-sensitive statute, and in the inclusion of sexual and gender-based violence within the definition of crimes.

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNALS

Making the headlines over the past five years have been two international war crimes tribunals created by the UN Security Council, one for the former Yugoslavia and the other for Rwanda. The two tribunals have tried, convicted and sentenced perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide—including former national leaders—to jail, in some cases for life.

Canada has given support, including voluntary contributions of \$2.3 million for the Yugoslav tribunal and \$1 million for the Rwanda tribunal. Canada has also provided forensic and other expert assistance, and has amended its laws to permit the extradition of indictees.

