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## CANADIAN ELECTED TO INTERNATIONAL WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL FOR THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

External Affairs Minister Perrin Beatty today welcomed the election of Judge Jules Deschênes to the International War Crimes Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Judge Deschênes was elected today by the United Nations General Assembly, from a list of candidates put forward by the UN Security Council.

"I am very pleased that the international community has expressed its confidence in Canada's candidate. I'm positive that Judge Deschênes, with his wealth of experience in the field, will make an important contribution to the Tribunal's work, trying those charged with war crimes in the former Yugoslavia," Mr. Beatty said.

Judge Deschênes served as Chairman of the Commission of Inquiry on War Criminals in Canada from 1985 to 1987. He is a former Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Quebec and a former Judge of the Court of Appeal of Quebec. He was Chairman of the Board of the Canadian Human Rights Foundation and a member of the United Nations Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

Canada was one of the first countries to propose the creation of a war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. The Tribunal, to be located in the Hague, will try individuals accused of serious violations of international humanitarian law, including rape, ethnic cleansing, torture and inhumane treatment. Judge Deschênes will be one of 11 judges to serve for a four-year term.

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