

Humanitarian Assistance

Canada's total contribution in humanitarian assistance for the victims of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia since the autumn of 1991 amounts to more than \$65 million. These funds have been used to purchase and deliver food, medical supplies and clothing, to provide shelter, to assist refugees and displaced persons, and to support victims of sexual violence. Close to 30,000 people have immigrated to Canada from the former Yugoslavia since 1992.

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy opened the Canadian embassy in Sarajevo in April 1996 to co-ordinate Canada's relations with Bosnia and Herzegovina, including our reconstruction assistance. Minister Axworthy and Minister for International Co-operation Pierre Pettigrew announced the same day that Canada would contribute up to \$40 million in reconstruction assistance this year; so far, more than \$20 million has been disbursed.

Reconstruction Efforts

Canadian reconstruction efforts aim at promoting security, social rehabilitation and democratic development — including ethnic tolerance, free media and human rights. Programs focus on community-based initiatives. Canada is playing a lead technical advisory role in the organization of elections under the auspices of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

War Crimes

Canada has consistently led and supported efforts to investigate and prosecute war crimes in the former Yugoslavia. In May 1993, the UN Security Council established an International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia to prosecute those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law. This followed a Canadian-sponsored international meeting of experts in Vancouver on the means of prosecuting war crimes cases.

In September 1993, Canadian Justice Jules Deschênes was one of 11 judges elected to the tribunal by the UN General Assembly. The UN Secretary-General appointed Canadian Justice Louise Arbour as chief prosecutor for the tribunal in March 1996; she will assume her duties in October 1996. Canada has so far contributed \$1.3 million to the tribunal's trust fund.