

Expert deployment

■ Peace support operations have evolved beyond strictly military missions into ones with broader mandates in which civilians have an increasingly prominent role to play. Missions now often require skills in such fields as democratic governance, judicial reform, child protection, media, human rights, and conflict resolution and reconciliation. Expanding the capacity to deploy highly qualified civilian experts who can assist with the complex tasks of post-conflict reconstruction is a key recommendation of the 2000 Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations.

■ Canada recognizes the need to build capacity, both at home and abroad, for the rapid identification and deployment of high calibre experts. The Canadian Resource Bank for Democracy and Human Rights (CANADEM) has created a roster of civilian experts who can contribute to international peace support operations and other field missions. In some instances, the Government of Canada also sends experts directly into the field. For example, RCMP officers have been sent to Kenya as part of an international investigation to enhance refugee protection. They also took part in a planning mission to establish the Sierra Leone Special Court for the prosecution of serious violations of international humanitarian law. In addition, Canada has supported a similar civilian deployment mechanism in South Africa, as well as the creation of a new unit within the ECOWAS Secretariat that will deploy child protection officers. Canadian support has also strengthened the capacity of UN human rights field missions in countries such as Afghanistan, Colombia, Sierra Leone and Sudan.

■ Expanding capacity to deploy civilians for peace support operations is essential to maintaining international security and our national interests. Civilian experts are a necessary complement to peacekeepers and civilian police. Recognizing this, the Canadian government has launched a process to further strengthen our capacity in this area, with particular attention to how to deploy civilians to unstable areas safely and effectively.

CANADEM

The Canadian Resource Bank for Democracy and Human Rights (CANADEM) is a national roster of more than 3,000 Canadian civilians who can respond quickly to UN, international and NGO requests for qualified experts. Canada's Human Security Program supports CANADEM (on-line at www.canadem.ca) in the belief that success in the field depends on the quality of the people deployed. Bringing a wide range of skills and experiences, these experts are available to contribute to peace support operations, UN field missions and broader peacebuilding activities.

human security

Peace support operations

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With support from Canada's Human Security Program, staff from Canada's Pearson Peacekeeping Centre arrive at Kauda in the Nuba Mountains, Sudan to help train Government and SPLM/A monitors for the Nuba Mountains cease-fire. (2002)