

Canada and the Former Yugoslavia

Canada participates fully in international efforts to ensure a lasting peace in the conflict in the former Yugoslavia and to provide relief to victims of the conflict. Until the drawdown of United Nations forces in Croatia and the transfer of authority to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada contributed the fifth-largest contingent to the UN peace forces in the former Yugoslavia, with some 2,100 military personnel in Croatia and in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

With the signing of a peace agreement for Bosnia and Herzegovina, and an agreement on the peaceful reintegration of Serb-controlled territory in Croatia, Canada is focusing its efforts on promoting security, as well as rehabilitation and reconstruction, in the former Yugoslavia.

Canada's Implementation Force Contribution

Since January 1996, Canada has had more than 1,000 troops in Bosnia and Herzegovina as part of the NATO-led peace implementation force, IFOR. The force's 12-month mandate is to implement the military aspects of the peace agreement initialled in Dayton, Ohio, on November 21, 1995, and formally signed on December 14, 1995, in Paris.

Canada's IFOR contribution consists primarily of a brigade headquarters which provides command and control for a multinational brigade consisting of units from the United Kingdom and the Czech Republic. Canadian troops also provide communications, reconnaissance, logistical and infantry support. In addition, Canadian personnel are working as UN military observers, and others serve aboard NATO aircraft, which since October 1992 have been monitoring the UN ban on military flights over Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Implementing Peace

Canada is working to ensure that international efforts in the post-conflict period continue to address not only the military but also the political and social aspects of the conflict. Canada participated in the London Peace Implementation Conference, held in December 1995, which established the Peace Implementation Council (PIC) to manage these efforts, and attended the Mid-Term Review Conference in Florence in June 1996. Canada is a member of the PIC steering board, composed of representatives of G-7 countries, Russia, the Presidency of the European Union, the European Commission and the Organization of the Islamic Conference. The steering board provides guidance to the High Representative, Carl Bildt, to assist him in monitoring, co-ordinating and facilitating the implementation of all civilian aspects of the peace agreement. In December 1995, Canada named a special co-ordinator for reconstruction in the former Yugoslavia to co-ordinate the civilian aspects of Canada's contribution to the peace implementation process.