

of the former Serb-controlled regions will only be able to feel secure in Croatia if any fear of arbitrary moves by the authorities against war crimes suspects is removed. The best place for alleged war criminals to be tried is at the international court in The Hague. The Croatian authorities should bring allegations against individuals to the international community, with a view to their being tried in The Hague if there is a case to answer.

- Urgent attention needs to be given to the economic regeneration of areas to which Serbs refugees will be returning, and to ensure that Serbs will share in the benefits of recovery. The Croatian authorities should be urged to speed up the process of privatisation of enterprises in these regions, so that their prospects can be clarified and their suitability for new investment, including foreign investment, assessed. The multilateral agencies should consider appropriate measures to contribute to economic recovery in these regions, such as rebuilding infrastructure and providing credits for the development of small and medium-sized businesses. As with all forms of assistance, however, such aid should be tied to international insistence on non-discriminatory practices by the Croatian authorities and by Croatian employers. Similarly, international investment in the returns regions should be encouraged, but it should be tied to non-discriminatory employment practices, so as to ensure that Serbs too will benefit.

### C. Evaluating Progress

Of key importance is to establish appropriate criteria upon which progress in implementing the programme can be judged. This is not straightforward, given that it is, at least initially, difficult to draw conclusions based on the numbers of returnees alone. Delays in getting satisfactory procedures up and running, and the limited increase in numbers of returnees is perhaps unsurprising. Nevertheless, criteria should be established for judging at least that the procedures are working adequately. Thus it should be possible to draw conclusions very quickly as to whether the programme is being implemented. It is vital that no complacency should be allowed to creep in.

Some possible criteria upon which progress might be judged are discussed below. The agencies on the ground will themselves have to agree on what methods would be appropriate, based on their experience. Critically, matters must not be allowed to slide any more, and adequate methods of evaluating progress should be understood, by the authorities as well as by the international community.

- It has already become clear that the housing commissions provided for in the programme, are, in most cases, not functioning satisfactorily. A number of reasons have been identified for this failure, and there is no reason for any delay in resolving the problems. Questions regarding the resources and remuneration of the members of the commission need to be resolved; clear operational instructions need to be handed down from the central authorities; the central commission needs to function more effectively, including the holding of public sessions; there needs to be improved communication between commissions about the availability of alternative accommodation. In addition, consideration should be given to whether it is necessary to increase the legal force of the programme, so as to facilitate the re-possession of properties and the evictions that entails.