

PEOPLE AND EVENTS

In the fall of 1998, Canada was honoured by the visits of:

President

Nelson Mandela, who, accompanied by his wife Graça Machel, was showered with tributes during a triumphal, hectic two-day state visit, September 24-25, as part of a farewell tour before he steps down as President after the South African elections expected in May-June of this year. His visit leaves us with a strong visual imprint and warm memories: Mandela during his address to Parliament thanking Canadians for their support; Mandela being inducted into the Order of Canada by the Governor General; and Mandela moving to the strains of South African

music before 30,000 admiring school children at the Skydome.

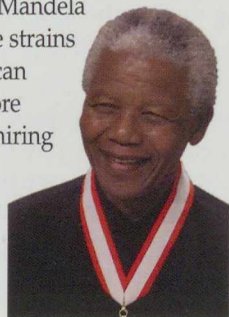


photo: CANAPRESS

Michael Douglas, Hollywood producer/actor and UN Messenger for Peace, who, on September 29, met with Prime Minister Chrétien and Foreign Affairs Minister Axworthy as part of a delegation representing the Middle Powers Initiative (MPI). The MPI is a consortium of seven major international NGOs that helps governments publicize the agenda for nuclear disarmament. The producer of the movie *The China Syndrome* was in town to drum up publicity for the MPI and nuclear disarmament.

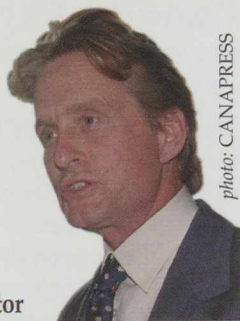


photo: CANAPRESS

Mary Robinson, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, who made a six-day visit to Canada, November 22-28, as part of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Mrs. Robinson's visit included stops in St. John's, Ottawa, Montréal, Toronto and Edmonton. She met with Prime Minister Chrétien, Foreign Affairs Minister Axworthy, and other senior government and non-government representatives concerned with human rights issues. She was also keynote speaker and guest of honour at the International Conference on Universal Rights and Human Values and addressed the International Press Freedom of Expression Awards gala organized by the Canadian Committee for the Protection of Journalists.

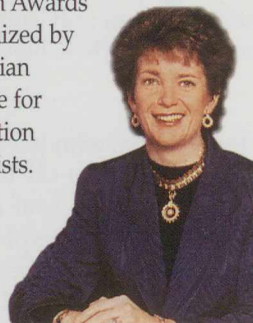


photo: UN

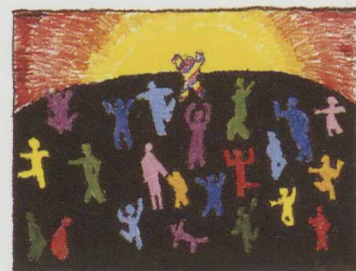


photo: NAC

Canadian Children's Art Exhibition

Launched October 12, 1998, in Ottawa, an exhibition of 50 drawings by Canadian children on what they would do to help protect the rights of people around the world is touring the Caribbean and Central and South America over the next two years. The drawings were selected from more than 700 entries in the National Arts Centre (NAC)'s contest "Imagine You're an Artist: Human Rights Through the Eyes of Our Youth" to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. ●—



EVENTS
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» MAIN IN INTERNATIONAL

1999

UN International Year of Older Persons
Worldwide celebration of older persons. For more information, please visit the following Canadian Web site:
<http://iyop-aipa.ic.gc.ca>

A P R I L

APRIL 23-25
NATO Summit
Washington D.C., U.S.A.
NATO celebrates its 50th anniversary. Prime Minister Chrétien, Foreign Affairs Minister Axworthy and National Defence Minister Eggleton will attend.
Web site: www.nato.int

J U N E

JUNE 18-20
25th Annual G-8 Summit
Köln, Germany
Annual meeting of the Heads of State or Government of the eight largest industrialized democracies, at which economic and political issues are discussed in an informal atmosphere.
Web site: www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/english/foreignp/policy.htm

J U L Y & A U G U S T

JULY 23-AUGUST 8
XIIIth Pan American Games
Winnipeg, Manitoba
5,000 athletes from 42 countries will participate in the largest celebration of sport and culture ever staged in Canada. The Games are an opportunity to promote new North-South economic partnerships and to showcase Manitoba and Canada as prime locations to do business.
Web site: www.panamgames.org

S E P T E M B E R

SEPTEMBER 3-5
VIIIth Francophonie Summit
Moncton, New Brunswick
The summit features the Conference of Heads of State and Government using French as a Common Language and provides a forum for meetings of decision-making authorities of the francophone community.
Web site: www.sommet99.org

F A L L

FALL 1999
FTAA Trade Ministerial Meeting & Americas Business Forum
As part of its duties as Chair of the first 18 months (May 1998 - October 1999) of negotiations toward a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), Canada will host a meeting of trade ministers of the 34 participating countries of the hemisphere to examine progress to date and the next stage of negotiations. At about the same time, the fifth Americas Business Forum will bring together some 3,000 business executives from Latin America and the Caribbean to ensure that the views and concerns of business are incorporated into the trade negotiations process.
Web site: www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/oas