

# IN BRIEF

## New scheme to halt trade in conflict diamonds

Diamonds are small, valuable and easily traded—an ideal resource for funding a war. But diamonds will cease to be the currency of conflict under a new international scheme.

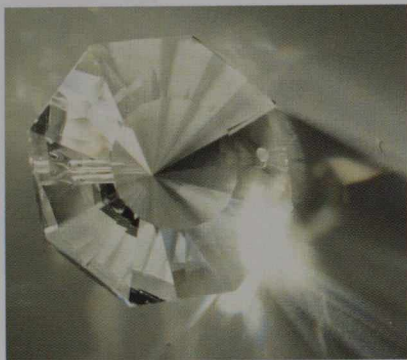
In the late 1990s the illicit trade in rough diamonds was fuelling armed conflicts in Angola, Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of Congo and elsewhere. As

the problem of “conflict diamonds” grew, the lack of controls on trading threatened the legitimacy of the diamond industry.

The United Nations Security Council introduced sanctions intended to stop the trade in conflict diamonds from war zones. But more needed to be done.

In May 2000 southern African nations stepped forward and launched the Kimberley Process, an initiative to bring greater control and transparency to the diamond industry. The result: As of January 1, 2003, Canada and over 30 other countries have implemented a scheme that requires diamond exporters or importers to have a certificate issued by a government stating each diamond's origin. The aim is to prevent diamonds that are funding conflict from entering the legitimate diamond market.

Under the scheme, rough diamonds exported from Canada will be certified as conflict-free, and Canada will import only diamonds that are covered by the Kimberley Process. Penalties include fines, imprisonment and the loss of trading licences.



## Youth forum offers recommendations

From March 21 to 24 in Ottawa, over 120 young Canadians aged 18 to 21 from across the country participated in the National Forum for Youth 2003, hosted by the Canadian Centre for

Foreign Policy Development (CCFPD). The theme of the Forum was “The Next Canada: The World We Want.”

“I feel that it is important to hear from Canadian youth on future directions for Canadian foreign

policy,” said Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham. “The report and recommendations from the National Forum are welcome contributions to the government's Dialogue on Foreign Policy.”

On the final day of the event, participants presented Minister Graham with key policy recommendations and advice on each of the three pillars of Canadian foreign policy: security; prosperity; and values and culture.

The youth participants were selected from seven partner organizations: the United Nations Association of Canada; Canada World Youth; the YMCA; the Canadian Junior Chamber; the Canadian Ethnocultural Council; War Child Canada; and the National Association of Friendship Centres.

The final report and recommendations are posted on the CCFPD Web site: [www.cfp-pec.gc.ca](http://www.cfp-pec.gc.ca)

## Canadian elected first President of International Criminal Court

In March 2003, Philippe Kirsch was unanimously elected President of the newly established International Criminal Court (ICC) at its inaugural meeting in The Hague, Netherlands.

A member of the Canadian Foreign Service since 1972, Mr. Kirsch has been a leading figure in the establishment of the ICC. He chaired the negotiations that led to adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in 1998. He also chaired the 1999–2002 Preparatory Commission; this developed important subsidiary instruments, such as the Rules of Procedure and Evidence. Mr. Kirsch is a recognized expert in international humanitarian and criminal law, and has been active in promoting ratification of the Rome Statute.

Mr. Kirsch will serve a six-year term as an ICC judge and a renewable three-year term as President of the Court. ICC vice-presidents are Akua Kuenyehia of Ghana and Elizabeth Odio Benito of Costa Rica.

## Canada helps developing countries participate in World Trade Organization

On March 10, 2003, International Trade Minister Pierre Pettigrew announced that Canada would provide \$500,000 to help developing countries better participate in World Trade Organization (WTO) activities.

The funding supports specific commitments made to developing countries under the WTO's Doha Development Agenda (see p. 5). These include enhancing the negotiating capacity of developing countries, as well as helping them to adjust to WTO rules and implement their WTO obligations.

The \$500,000 is in addition to \$1 million previously contributed by Canada to the WTO's Global Trust Fund, and \$300,000 donated to the WTO's Training Institute. ♣