

CANADIAN POSITION

Canada is fully committed to ensuring the parties to the conflict live up to their obligations to respect and protect human rights. With a negotiated settlement to the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, we will support the efforts of the international community to monitor and promote respect for human rights obligations.

Canada has consistently led international efforts to investigate and prosecute war crimes in the former Yugoslavia. In March 1993, Canada sponsored an international experts meeting to establish the International Criminal Tribunal for war crimes in the former Yugoslavia. With a contribution of \$300,000, Canada was the first country to support the UN Commission of Experts (UNCOE) that investigated alleged war crimes and other violations of international humanitarian law. Canada has participated in three investigations into issues such as sexual assault and mass graves.

In March 1994 and April 1995, Canada contributed a total of \$775,00 to the Trust Fund of the war crimes Tribunal, and in September 1993, Canadian Judge Jules Deschênes was elected to the Tribunal. Canada established a position for an Information Coordinator to receive information on alleged violations of international humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia and has submitted two reports on alleged war crimes to the UN Security Council. Canada has also helped draft the Declaration on the Protection of Victims of War Crimes, which included specific references to the sexual assault of women during times of armed conflict.

Since the conflict began, Canada has provided \$65 million in humanitarian assistance to the former Yugoslavia. Canada will continue to make a significant contribution in the post-conflict period. Details of Canada's reconstruction program will be announced at a pledging conference in Brussels in March 1995. Canada has nominated a senior official as Special Coordinator for Reconstruction in the Former Yugoslavia.

Canada's role in civilian peace implementation will focus on social rehabilitation, human rights, refugees, and arms control. In the short term, Canada will continue to contribute to humanitarian assistance and promote regional confidence- and security-building measures. In the medium and longer term we will promote human rights and ethnic tolerance, with a concentration on community-based initiatives headed by Canadian NGOs. We are discussing with the OSCE the provision of Canadian expertise on national human rights institutions, and human rights experts to serve on the organization's mission.

Canada announced December 6 that it would send 1,000 troops to participate in IFOR. Some 350 troops are on the ground; the main body will deploy to northwestern Bosnia late January - early February.