

During its 53rd session, the UN Human Rights Commission (CHR) approved the creation of a **UN Mission of Inquiry** (proposed by a number of delegations, including Canada) and the deployment of a Team to the DRC to investigate allegations of human rights abuses during the 1996 war of liberation. The investigation was fraught with difficulties and interrupted. On the recommendation of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, following a series of incidents culminating in the detention a Canadian, Christopher Harland, who was part of the Team, the UN Secretary General withdrew the Investigation Team from the Congo on April 17, 1998.

The Resolution on DRC presented at the **54th session of the CHR** (co-sponsored by Canada) strongly condemned the circumstances which obliged the Secretary General to withdraw the Investigation Team. It was adopted after a vote called by the DRC delegation (28 in favour, 7 against and 18 abstention).

Following the reports of massacres in the Makobola area, Kabila has invited **UN Special Rapporteur Garreton** to investigate. Kabila has assured the government's full cooperation in the event of an investigation.

CANADIAN POSITION

Canada supports the investigation by the **Special Rapporteur** of allegations of recent massacres.

Canada made several appeals in favour of a **cease-fire**, the withdrawal of all foreign troops and the start of negotiations between all parties. Canada has been supporting regional efforts to achieve a negotiated settlement and is in favour of both a Congolese and a regional conference to address the deep-rooted causes of the conflict.

The **Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs** has made statements to the press indicating that perpetrators of human rights abuses will be held accountable.