

Herzeg-Bosna" within Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, the Croatian Government's role in the surrender of 10 Bosnian Croats indicted for war crimes to the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia (ICTY) was a welcome positive action.

On the media front, the Government continues its efforts to censure criticism or dissent. There are also disturbing reports of international organizations and Croatian ones with international affiliations being the target of systematic harassment by the Government.

Among the positive trends over the past year were: public statements of concern by members of the Government, the enacting of legislation such as the Media Law and the creation of the Programme on the Establishment of Trust, Accelerated Return and Normalization of Living Conditions. As well, it should be noted that the Ombudsman Office is becoming increasingly more forthright and critical in its reports on the Government's human rights performance, particularly as regards Serbs. It also is to be hoped that Croatia's membership in the Council of Europe and the concomitant obligation to uphold the highest standard of human rights will have an impact on the democratization process in the country.

The human rights situation in Croatia is addressed in the omnibus resolutions on Former Yugoslavia adopted at both the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) and the UN General Assembly 3rd Committee, which Canada traditionally co-sponsors. At the 53rd session of the Commission on Human Rights, this was adopted by 44 votes to none, with 7 abstentions. Canada co-sponsored the resolution, which renewed the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Former Yugoslavia. However, for CHR54, concerned States have suggested that resolution should be adopted on each individual country.

CANADIAN POSITION

We consider that Croatia does not yet fully comply with the Dayton Peace Agreements, of which it is a signatory. Canada insists that the Croatian Government ensure that those refugees and displaced persons wishing to return or those wishing to remain, are able to do so in a secure environment. We urge Croatia to cooperate fully with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and to continue to use its influence on the Bosnian Croat authorities to arrest indicted war criminals. We fully support the efforts of the international community to monitor and promote respect for human rights obligations, particularly through an expanded role in Croatia for the OSCE. A Canadian RCMP officer will be the OSCE's senior advisor for policing issues.