

**National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI)  
Report on the  
Croatian Bosnian Tour of the Canadian Parliamentary System  
Ottawa, Canada  
March 15 to March 22, 1998**

**A Project in cooperation with Canadian International Development Agency  
and the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development**

**Introduction:**

Karen Gainer, Director of Political Party Program for NDI Croatia together with Sarah Jenkins, Director of Political Party Field Training for NDI Bosnia lead a delegation of young political party leaders and organizers from both Bosnia & Herzegovina and Croatia to Ottawa the week of March 15 1998. The purpose of the trip was fourfold.

1. To introduce the delegation to the Parliamentary leaders and their political party officers and to the various political parties of Canada. It is intended that these meetings would be informal to allow the delegation to learn how the Canadian multiparty system functions in reality.
2. To provide them with an opportunity to meet members of the Parliamentary Press gallery-to understand the role of an independent media and the relationship that exists between the political parties and members of the media. Specifically to introduce them to the role of the CBC as a public broadcasting media as separate from a state run media or private media.
3. To meet with members of Elections Canada, The Canadian Human Rights Commission and the Supreme Court of Canada to learn how institutions shape the democratic culture of a nation.
4. To observe the Liberal Party Bi-Annual convention. This was to give the delegation an opportunity to see how a national political party consults with and takes direction from the rank and file of the party.

*The Agenda for the program can be found at page 15 of this report.*

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**NDI**

The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) is a non governmental, non partisan Washington based organization which was established in 1983 to strengthen democratic institutions and pluralistic values in new and emerging democracies.

NDI has been working with political parties in Croatia since the fall of 1995 and in Bosnia