

News BRIEFS

CANADA SIGNS INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM CONVENTION

On February 10, at the United Nations in New York, Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy signed the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. The Convention will help prevent signatory states' territories from being used as bases for terrorist fund-raising activities. It also establishes a framework for extraditing or prosecuting those who raise or provide funds for terrorists.

Canada chaired the negotiating committee for the Convention, which will complement existing counter-terrorist conventions. The aim is to curb terrorist acts by restricting terrorists' sources of funding, through the creation of new offences under international law.

Adopted unanimously by the UN General Assembly on December 9, 1999, the Convention will come into force after ratification by 22 states.

FLOODS IN MOZAMBIQUE: CANADA TO THE RESCUE

Through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Department of National Defence (DND), Canada has provided more than \$11.6 million in emergency assistance for flood victims in Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Botswana and Swaziland.

In February, after weeks of torrential rain and a cyclone, the worst flooding in 50 years left 1 million people homeless in these countries.

Canada channelled its help through the World Food Programme, UNICEF, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the World Health Organization, Canadian NGOs such as Oxfam Canada and the Canadian Lutheran World Relief, and other agencies. The Canadian contribution was used to provide food, blankets, medicine, shelter, clean water, transportation for the victims and support for reconstruction.

Another urgent need has been to protect people from the dangers caused

by landmines displaced in the flooding. Canada contributed \$500 000 to help the UN Mine Action Service assess the situation and take appropriate measures. Mozambique is one of the world's most heavily mined countries, with between 1 and 2 million mines on its territory.

CANADA AND RUSSIA TO INCREASE CO-OPERATION IN THE NORTH

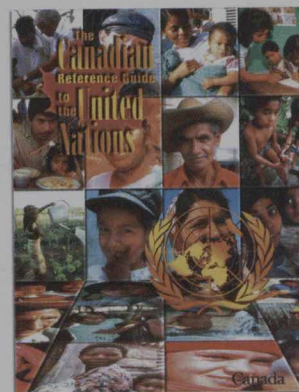
Canada and Russia have extended for another three years their co-operation agreement on Aboriginal and northern development. The two countries will enhance northern co-operation and re-invigorate their political dialogue on Arctic and Aboriginal affairs.

Ottawa and Moscow have also approved a work plan of new activities designed to promote northern sustainable development and take advantage of emerging socio-economic opportunities in the North.

"The development of the northern dimension of our bilateral relations with Russia continues to be a priority," said Mr. Axworthy at the first meeting of the Working Group on the Arctic and the North.

CANADIAN STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Alongside 2400 students from all over the world, 225 Canadian students from 13 colleges and universities across the country will take part in the National Model United Nations conference, to be held in New York from April 18 to 22. The conference originated in 1923 as a simulation of the League of Nations. It is the largest program of its kind in the world, and one of the most prestigious. The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade is offering logistical and financial support to participating Canadian educational institutions. Each institution will represent a different country. For example, the delegation from the Université de Montréal will represent France, while students from the Nunavut Arctic College will represent Barbados.



CANADIAN REFERENCE GUIDE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade recently published an updated version of the *Canadian Reference Guide to the United Nations*. More than 80 pages in length, the Guide outlines Canada's unique contribution to the United Nations and to UN programs, specialized agencies and institutions. It also gives contact and Web site information.

At the launch, Minister Axworthy said, "The Guide is a practical reference tool aimed at students, teachers, the general public and news media—anyone who is interested in learning more about the United Nations."

For print copies of the Guide, telephone **1-800-267-8376** or **(613) 944-4000**, fax **(613) 996-9709**, or write to Enquiries Service (SXCI), Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, 125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2.

You can also consult the Guide on the Internet at DFAIT's educational Web site, "Canadians in the World" (www.canschool.org). The site features a diverse menu of topics about Canada's international relations, humanitarian efforts, culture, science, sports and business.

• cont'd on page 16