



The Department

Wavering between hope, terror and numbing boredom, the hostages spent a total of four months in captivity before Peruvian forces stormed the residence on April 22, rescuing 71 of the 72 hostages and killing all 14 rebel captors.

Escape from Iran

This was perhaps the most famous of all diplomatic capers. On January 28, 1980, under the guidance of Canadian Ambassador to Iran Ken Taylor, six Americans escaped the country. They had been hiding in the Canadian embassy since Iranian revolutionaries had seized the U.S. embassy three months before, taking 66 hostages.

Blood Diamonds

Diamonds can be clear, beautiful — and deadly. These days, people are using the proceeds from precious stones to kill one another. The fight against so-called "conflict" or "blood" diamonds began with a UN resolution in June 1998. The hope was to stanch the flow of diamonds fuelling conflicts in Angola, Congo, Sierra Leone and Liberia.

Determined to find out why trade sanctions against Angolan rebels had not stopped the flow of arms to the guerrillas, Canada's Ambassador to the United Nations, Robert Fowler, took matters into his own hands. He put together a panel of experts, which presented a hard-hitting report to the UN Security Council in March 2000 on the links between diamonds and the bloody Angolan civil war and violations of the embargo. The Fowler Report, as it became known, cited breaches of sanctions against the purchase of diamonds from UNITA, the rebel movement in Angola, together with violations of the weapons embargo and the oil boycott directed against UNITA. The initiative helped galvanize opinion against blood diamonds.