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CANADA

# World View

Dept. of External Affairs  
Min. des Affaires extérieures  
OTTAWA

NOV 10 1999

## The International Criminal Court

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### Agreement bears strong Canadian imprint

It is a tradition that goes back to the founding of the United Nations (UN) in 1945 and to the precedent-setting Suez Peacekeeping mission, which won a Nobel Peace Prize for Lester B. Pearson in 1957. For more than half a century, Canada has played a leading role in promoting peace and the rule of law in international affairs.

July 18, 1998, marked a major new entry in this peacemaking record with the signing by Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy of the Statute establishing the framework for the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The Court will be the first permanent international tribunal empowered to prosecute individuals accused of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity and, eventually, crimes of aggression.

Hammered out in five tough and often heated weeks of negotiation, the ICC Statute represents a victory for a group of "like-minded states", led by Canada, and united by general agreement on the need for an international court.

The final vote on the Statute was 120 to 7 in favour of adoption with 21 abstentions.

Mr. Axworthy, who addressed the Plenary Session and participated in the

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The ICC Statute recognizes that women and children are particularly vulnerable in times of war. Rape, sexual slavery and sexual violence are recognized as war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Canada 

photo: Laurie Wiseberg

