

A Canadian specialist in international humanitarian law, Commander William Fenrick of the Department of National Defence, was appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the UN Commission of Experts, which is investigating war crimes and other violations of international humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia. A team of Canadian investigators left last week for the former Yugoslavia to assist the UN Commission in its inquiry into a mass grave site in Vukovar, Croatia.

Since last August, Canada has repeatedly stressed the need for an ad hoc tribunal to hear charges of war crimes in the former Yugoslavia. On February 22, 1993, the UN Security Council established such a tribunal to prosecute those responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law.

Canada is sponsoring an international meeting of experts in Vancouver from March 22 to 26, to consider the establishment of an international criminal court, including the question of an ad hoc tribunal.

On January 12, 1993, Canada established an Information Co-ordinator to receive information on violations of international humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia. Its first report on war crimes to the UN Secretary-General, which was released on March 9, 1993, contains information drawn from a wide variety of sources, including 65 reports from non-governmental and regional organizations, governments and the United Nations. Corroborating reports from confidential Canadian sources were also included.

At the 49th session of the UN Commission on Human Rights, the Canadian delegation successfully worked for the adoption, by consensus, of two resolutions condemning all violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia. The resolutions also expressed outrage at the systematic use of sexual abuse of women as a weapon of war, and requested that a group of experts, under the aegis of the Commission's Special Rapporteur, Mr. Tadeusz Mazowiecki, investigate the issue.

In December 1992, Canada informed the UN Secretary-General that it will strongly support a decision by the Security Council to enforce the no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina.

#### **Special Immigration Measures**

A special program has been set up to facilitate the reunification of nationals from the former Yugoslavia with relatives in Canada, and to allow visitors already in Canada to extend their stay or to apply for immigrant status under this program. Up to 26 000 ex-Yugoslav nationals who have been affected by the civil war could benefit from this program.

March 9, 1993