

International sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro continue as a means to bring pressure on the government in Belgrade to end its support for the policies of the Bosnian Serb leadership. Canada implements these sanctions fully and takes part in multinational efforts to enforce them in the Adriatic Sea and in neighbouring countries. Canada provides the team leader and five other customs officers to the Sanctions Assistance Mission in the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia.

Human rights violations continue in many parts of Bosnia-Herzegovina, primarily in those areas under the control of the Bosnian Serbs. In September 1993, a noted Canadian judge, Jules Deschênes, was elected by the UN General Assembly as one of 11 judges on the International Tribunal established to prosecute alleged war crimes committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia. Canadian investigators have helped the UN Commission of Experts gather evidence that could be used in trials before the International Tribunal.

The past year has also seen the continuation of co-operative efforts between the United Nations and NATO to implement Security Council decisions. In August 1993 and in January, February and April 1994, the North Atlantic Council authorized NATO forces to use air power, if necessary, to protect UN peacekeepers in Bosnia and Croatia; ensure the replacement of Canadian peacekeepers in Srebrenica by Danish troops; reopen Tuzla airport; and enforce the exclusion zones around Sarajevo and Gorazde. NATO aircraft also continue to enforce a no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In February 1994, NATO planes shot down four Serb aircraft violating the no-fly zone. In April, NATO aircraft provided close air support to protect UN peacekeepers under direct attack in Gorazde.

Canada will continue to work with our international partners in seeking negotiated solutions to the various conflicts in the former Yugoslavia. Canada will also continue to provide humanitarian assistance to the innocent victims of the fighting and will take part in reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts.

Canada is committed to maintaining its peacekeeping presence in the former Yugoslavia for the current mandate period which expires on September 30, 1994. A decision on whether to continue Canadian participation beyond that date will be taken in light of the circumstances at that time.