



CANADA AND THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

Canada participates fully in international efforts to ensure a lasting peace to the conflict in the former Yugoslavia and to provide relief to its victims. With the signing of a peace agreement for Bosnia and Herzegovina, and an agreement on the peaceful reintegration of Serb-controlled territory in Croatia, Canada is focussing its efforts on promoting security, as well as rehabilitation and reconstruction, in the former Yugoslavia. Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy opened the Canadian Embassy in Sarajevo on April 10, 1996, to co-ordinate Canada's relations with Bosnia and Herzegovina and its participation in peace implementation.

Peacekeeping

Until the drawdown of United Nations (UN) forces in Croatia and the transfer of authority to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada had contributed the fifth-largest contingent to the UN Peace Forces in the former Yugoslavia, with some 2100 military personnel in Croatia and in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

More than 1000 Canadian troops have been in Bosnia and Herzegovina since January 1996, as part of the NATO-led peace implementation force, IFOR, whose mandate is to implement the military aspects of the peace agreement initialled in Dayton, Ohio, on November 21, 1995, and formally signed in Paris on December 14, 1995. Canada's contribution consists primarily of a brigade headquarters, which provides command and control for a multinational brigade consisting of units from the United Kingdom and the Czech Republic. Canadian troops also provide communications, reconnaissance, logistical and infantry support. In addition, Canadian personnel are working as UN military observers or serving aboard NATO aircraft, which since October 1992 have been used to monitor the UN ban on military flights over Bosnia and Herzegovina. A Canadian frigate in the Adriatic Sea helped enforce UN sanctions and the arms embargo from 1992 to 1996.

Canadians have undertaken some of the most difficult UN peacekeeping assignments in the former Yugoslavia. In June 1992, some 750 Canadian troops were deployed to Sarajevo to reopen and secure the airport to allow the airlift of relief supplies. In January and February 1993, 180 Canadian troops were temporarily deployed to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to monitor developments in areas that border Serbia. In April 1993, another 220 troops were sent to Srebrenica, in eastern Bosnia and Herzegovina, to establish the presence of the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the besieged city. In June 1994, approximately 60 Canadian troops were deployed in Gorazde to help monitor the three-kilometre exclusion zone.

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