

Canada Responds to the Crisis in the Former Yugoslavia

Canada participates fully in international efforts to promote a peaceful settlement to the conflict in the former Yugoslavia and to provide relief to its victims. In September 1991, Canada led the call for the UN Security Council to deal with this issue. In August 1992 in London and again in December in Geneva, Canada took part in the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, co-chaired by the UN and the European Community (EC, now known as the European Union). Canada has been an active supporter of all Conference efforts to achieve a negotiated settlement to the crisis.

Peacekeeping

Canada has contributed one of the largest contingents to the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR): more than 2,000 Canadian troops now monitor UN-protected zones in Croatia and provide protection for relief convoys and refugees in Bosnia. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) is providing 44 monitors to UNPROFOR. Another 12 Canadian Forces members serve with an EC-CSCE mission monitoring ceasefire agreements throughout the former Yugoslavia.

Canadians have undertaken some of the most difficult UN assignments. In June 1992, some 750 Canadian troops were deployed to Sarajevo to reopen and secure the airport so that the airlift of relief supplies could begin. In January and February 1993, 180 Canadian troops were deployed temporarily to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to monitor developments in the border areas with Serbia. In April 1993, another 220 troops were sent to Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia to ensure the presence of UNPROFOR in the besieged city; a company of Canadian troops remains in this "safe area."

Humanitarian Assistance

Canada's total contribution in humanitarian assistance for the victims of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia since autumn 1991 now approaches \$40 million, including \$1.75 million for victims of sexual violence. These contributions have been used to support the purchase and delivery of food, medical supplies, clothing and shelter, and to assist refugees and displaced persons.

Canada also participates in the international airlift to the besieged city of Sarajevo. From the start of the airlift on July 3, 1992, a Canadian Forces Hercules C-130 transport airplane has conducted approximately 930 relief flights to Sarajevo, for a total delivery of more than 14,000 metric tons of food and medical supplies.

In September 1993, Canada announced a series of Canadian initiatives — totaling almost \$2 million — to help restore medical facilities in the war-torn regions of Bosnia-Herzegovina. They include: water purification equipment; support for

Slovenia and Croatia on January 15, 1992, and of Bosnia-Herzegovina on April 8, 1992. Diplomatic relations were established with Slovenia on January 8, 1993, and with Croatia on April 14, 1993. Canada supported the resolution of the UN General Assembly admitting the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia into the UN on April 8, 1993. Canada, along with other Western countries, has condemned Serb aggression in Bosnia-Herzegovina and has urged Serbia and Croatia to stop interference in that country. On September 22, 1992, together with several other

Canadian Forces photo



Canadian peacekeepers in the former Yugoslavia.

the emergency power supply for the two major Sarajevo hospitals; equipment and training by Canadian rehabilitation experts for five community health centres; medical supplies and medicine; and teams of Canadian medical specialists.

Diplomacy

As a member of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Canada maintains diplomatic contacts with all legitimate parties concerned by the crisis, inside and outside the former Yugoslavia. Canada has repeatedly called upon the parties to end the violence and to work towards a negotiated settlement.

Canada recognized the independence of

nations, Canada co-sponsored the resolution that suspended Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) from the proceedings of the UN General Assembly and called on Belgrade to submit a new application for UN membership. Canada also supported the temporary suspension of Yugoslavia from the CSCE.

Canada supports international efforts for a more effective implementation of trade sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). On April 27, 1993, Canada imposed strengthened UN sanctions against Yugoslavia, including the freezing of state assets in Canada and additional trade restrictions. Two Canadian naval vessels have