



---

# news release

---

Date **September 23, 1994**

No. 186

For release

## CANADA TO MAINTAIN PEACEKEEPERS IN FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet and National Defence Minister David Collenette today announced that Canada will renew for another six months its present contribution to the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the former Yugoslavia.

"Canada continues to play a meaningful role in the Balkans. Our contribution to the UN peacekeeping effort has indeed been significant — some would even say disproportionately large given the size of our armed forces. Our decision to maintain our current contribution underlines our commitment to peace in the region, to the United Nations and to our UNPROFOR allies," said Mr. Ouellet.

"Our role in UNPROFOR is a source of pride for Canadians. Since March 1992, we helped re-open the Sarajevo airport, established the first safe area in Srebrenica and were the first to be deployed in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Canadian aircraft have conducted nearly 1500 flights, transporting more than 10 000 passengers and 20 000 metric tonnes of food and relief supplies," added Mr. Collenette.

There are currently some 2000 Canadian troops in the former Yugoslavia. Most of them make up two battle groups — one in Croatia and one in Bosnia-Herzegovina — of approximately 750 personnel each with another 450 support personnel.

An all-party debate on peacekeeping took place in the House of Commons on Wednesday. The Government took careful note of the concern that more and more calls were being placed on Canada to provide peacekeepers around the world and that Canada's forces could not remain indefinitely in any one place.

This decision is subject to review if the situation on the ground changes, or if political or military conditions call into question the safety of Canadian peacekeepers or the usefulness of UNPROFOR.

- 30 -

For more information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office  
Department of External Affairs and International Trade  
(613) 995-1874

or

Media Liaison Office  
National Defence Headquarters  
(613) 996-2353