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## CANADA WILL CONTRIBUTE TO UN FUND FOR INVESTIGATION OF WAR CRIMES IN THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall announces that Canada will contribute \$300,000 to the newly established United Nations Trust Fund for the Work of the United Nations Commission of Experts on war crimes in the former Yugoslavia. Canada is the first country to contribute to the Fund.

"Canada has been at the forefront of efforts to ensure that the UN Commission of Experts has sufficient resources to fulfil its mandate. We call on the international community to join those efforts, so that those who violate international humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia can be brought to justice," said Mrs. McDougall.

Canada's contribution to the Trust Fund will support the work of the UN Commission of Experts, whose mandate is to examine and analyze evidence of grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions and other violations of international humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia. This includes investigations of systematic sexual assaults, which Canada considers a priority, mass killings, the practice of "ethnic cleansing," the treatment of prisoners and detainees, and the destruction of property. A Canadian member of the UN Commission of Experts, Commander William Fenrick of the Department of National Defence, has been named Special Rapporteur for on-site investigations.

Canada has also provided the Commission with a war crimes investigation team, headed by Lt.-Col. Kim Carter, to assist the Commission in gathering evidence. The team returned March 18 from a preliminary investigation of a mass grave site at Vukovar in Croatia.

An international meeting of experts held in Vancouver last week, which Canada sponsored, considered the mechanism for establishing an ad hoc tribunal on Yugoslavia, as well as a permanent UN criminal court. Canada has sent the meeting's

conclusions to UN Secretary-General Boutros-Boutros Ghali to assist him in his report to the Security Council, expected before the end of April.

Once an ad hoc tribunal on war crimes is established, Canada is prepared to offer a team of lawyers and investigators from the Departments of Justice and National Defence to assist in prosecuting war crimes.

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