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Canada World View

ISSUE 20 • AUTUMN 2003

JAN - 9 2004

Beyond Peace: Canada in Afghanistan

- CBC's "The Current" in Kabul
- Puppets for Peace in the Middle East



Department of Foreign Affairs
and International Trade

Ministère des Affaires étrangères
et du Commerce international

Canada

About *Canada World View*

Canada World View provides an overview of Canada's perspective on foreign policy issues and highlights the Government of Canada's international initiatives and contributions. *Canada World View* is published quarterly in English and French by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

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Our cover

The ruined King's Palace next to Camp Julien, the main Canadian Forces base in Kabul, teems with life. Afghan children have "turned the rubble into a playing field," says photographer Pedram Pirnia, adding that the recognition of Canadians—and of the flags Pirnia handed out to these curious "guides" while on a visit to the palace—was high. Pirnia spent two months in Afghanistan researching constitution making and agricultural reform in the country. Meanwhile, on assignment for the Canadian International Development Agency, he photographed Canadian aid projects as well as Afghan people, their way of life, nature and architecture. His photographs appear throughout this issue.

ISSN 1491-4573

Canada Post Agreement No. 40064047

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BUILDING BRIDGES IN AFGHANISTAN

Canada's renewed commitment to Afghanistan involves a coordinated, long-term approach that brings together the three arms of Canadian foreign policy: defence, diplomacy and development.

The bridge is hardly noticeable, a modest concrete structure that traverses a small river on the southern edge of Kabul. Yet for the people of the district of Paghman, the Deh-e Punbah Bridge is a critical lifeline to the city that's easily weakened by seasonal floods and unable to take heavy commercial traffic. For several weeks this fall, overseeing the reconstruction of the bridge became a focus of activity for members of the Royal Canadian Regiment—and a symbol of the close cooperation between Canada and Afghanistan in the effort to help rebuild the devastated country.

Such involvement by Canada in Afghanistan dates back to the early 1960s, with the first Canadian development assistance program in the country. As the need to coordinate the efforts of the various development agencies working there grew, Ottawa established diplomatic relations with Afghanistan. However, the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan in 1979 and the installation of a puppet regime led the Canadian government to sever diplomatic ties. Even after the Soviet withdrawal in 1989, connections between the two countries remained minimal, although Canada provided some humanitarian aid throughout the 1990s.

A Renewed Commitment

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, prompted Canada and other countries to re-evaluate their policies toward Afghanistan. The collapse of the Taliban regime in October 2001 was followed by a meeting of groups interested in developing a framework for governing the country. The resulting Bonn Agreement led to the creation of an interim administration, headed by Hamid Karzai, and gave the international community a new opportunity to help end decades of civil conflict and contribute effectively to the reconstruction of the country.

Canada's renewed commitment to Afghanistan is rooted in the principle of a multilateral approach with two main



photos: MCpl Brian Walsh, Canadian Forces Combat Camera

Friendship grows into brotherhood: Mohammed Musa, the Governor of Paghman District, and Lieutenant Colonel Don Denne, Commanding Officer of Third Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment, cut a ribbon to open the Deh-e Punbah Bridge, reconstructed with the assistance of the regiment under the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) civil-military cooperation program. The newly rebuilt bridge serves the interest of local villagers as well as ISAF in their patrols of the area, says Denne. "The building of this bridge is a symbol of the friendship between the people of Canada and the people of Afghanistan," he says, "and further stands as a testament to our spirit of cooperation in the rebuilding of Afghanistan."



objectives: security and reconstruction. Achieving these will ensure that the country never again becomes a haven for terrorism and extremism.

"In short, the mission speaks both to Canadians' altruism—our desire to help others—and to our self-interest—our desire to put down terrorism and enhance our own domestic security," says Minister of National Defence John McCallum. "In the absence of international forces, there is a serious risk that the country would fall back into the hands of the Taliban—a serious risk that it would once again become a breeding ground for terrorist organizations like al-Qaeda. That is something the world cannot allow."

Putting it into Practice

With the installation of the interim administration, Afghanistan rejoined the world community, and Canada had an opportunity to put its new policies into action. An administration committed to peaceful coexistence, national reconstruction and democratic elections clearly deserved support, and Canada re-established diplomatic relations with Afghanistan in January 2002.

Real action followed soon after. Although the Taliban regime that supported the terrorists was no longer in power, the military situation remained far from secure. As part of Operation Apollo, a Canadian Forces battle group of

850 soldiers was dispatched to Afghanistan in February 2002. Working with the U.S. military, the Canadians deployed to the southern Kandahar region for six months to conduct offensive operations against remaining Taliban forces, the first time that Canadian ground forces had been involved in combat since the Korean War.

At the same time, Canada moved quickly to respond to the humanitarian and reconstruction needs of the Afghan people. At the Tokyo Conference on Reconstruction in Afghanistan in January 2002, Canada pledged \$100 million in assistance. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, much of the funding was allocated to organizations providing humanitarian relief, including UNICEF, Care Canada, the Red Cross, the World Food Programme and Aga Khan Foundation Canada. Other support was devoted to policing, legal reform and the demobilization and reintegration of combatants.

The 3D Approach

These contributions to Afghanistan were significant. But with increased defence, diplomatic and development efforts—a total Canadian investment expected to top \$1 billion

over the next two years alone—came the need for a more comprehensive strategy. The result was what Canada calls its “3D Approach,” involving unprecedented levels of coordination among government departments and agencies.

photo: Pedram Pirnia



Kabul street: responding to the humanitarian and reconstruction needs of the Afghan people is critical.

Afghanistan at a Glance

Capital: Kabul

Area: 647,500 sq. km. (roughly the size of Manitoba)

Terrain: mostly rugged mountains; plains in north and southwest

Climate: arid to semiarid; cold winters and hot summers

Population: 28,717,213 (July 2003)

Age structure: 0-14 years: 41.8%; 15-64 years: 55.4%; 65 years and over: 2.8%

Ethnic groups: Pashtun 44%, Tajik 25%, Hazara 10%, minor ethnic groups (Aimaks, Turkmen, Baloch, and others) 13%, Uzbek 8%

Life expectancy at birth: 46.97 years

Religions: Sunni Muslim 84%, Shi'a Muslim 15%, other 1%

Literacy rate: overall 36%; male 51%

Labour force by occupation: agriculture 80%, industry 10%, services 10% (1990)

Natural resources: natural gas, petroleum, coal, copper, chromite, talc, barite, sulfur, lead, zinc, iron ore, salt, precious and semiprecious stones

GDP: purchasing power parity, US\$19 billion (2002)

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), for example, has provided the Department of National Defence (DND) with financial support to assist in the implementation of joint civil-military cooperation efforts. These include the Deh-e Punbah Bridge reconstruction as well as projects to provide fresh water, power and shelter and to rebuild schools and hospitals, thus promoting closer ties with the Afghan communities they serve. The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade provides diplomatic and logistic support for DND's security mission and CIDA's aid programs.

Defence: Security and Reconstruction

In Afghanistan's war-torn capital of Kabul, the key focus is on keeping the peace. If the country is to be successful in its rebuilding efforts, the transitional government and the many relief agencies must be able to function in a secure environment. To help ensure this, the UN mandated the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to help the Afghan authorities maintain security in Kabul and surrounding areas.

Since August 2003, the 5,000 troops of the NATO-led ISAF mission have provided the Karzai government with greater stability. Canada plays a major role in NATO's first ever out-of-area operation. Indeed, with a contingent of more than 1,900 soldiers, including a battalion group, a brigade headquarters and an airlift detachment, Canada is the largest single contributor to ISAF. Canada is also assuming important command responsibilities, as Major General Andrew Leslie is currently the Deputy Commander of ISAF and Lieutenant General Rick Hillier will become the Commander of ISAF in February 2004.

Diplomacy: A New Embassy

Since the re-establishment of diplomatic relations in January, ties between Canada and Afghanistan have grown stronger at a rapid pace, underlining how seriously Ottawa takes the relationship. The opening of a Canadian embassy in

Kabul was announced in June 2003. In July, Christopher Alexander was appointed Canada's first ambassador to Afghanistan, and by early August the embassy was up and running. A month later, Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bill Graham, flew to Kabul to discuss Canada's growing commitments in Afghanistan. President Karzai visited Ottawa in late September, and Prime Minister Jean Chrétien travelled to Kabul in October.

When he opened the mission, Mr. Graham said that it would provide critical diplomatic and logistic support to assist Canada's security and aid programs in Afghanistan.

"The embassy in Kabul is a timely contribution to Canada's stabilization and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan," he said. "A firm diplomatic presence is important in enabling us to work closely with our Afghan partners, as well as with the resident international community, to ensure that the country doesn't again become a haven for terrorists."

Canadian diplomats are also busy at work in multilateral forums such as the UN, NATO and the G8, as well as in national capitals, forging international commitment and consensus for the reconstruction and stabilization process.

Development: Improving Lives

Canada recognizes the urgent need to improve the lives of the Afghan people after decades of conflict, drought and natural disaster. Massive rebuilding is necessary if Afghanistan is once again to have a functioning infrastructure and effective economic, political and judicial institutions.

In March 2003, Canada's Minister for International Cooperation, Susan Whelan, pledged \$250 million in new aid for Afghanistan over the next two years—the largest single country pledge ever made by the Government of Canada. This brings to more than \$500 million the amount of humanitarian and reconstruction assistance Canada has provided for Afghanistan since 1990. The money will go toward four main areas: supporting rural livelihoods and social protection; supporting natural resource management and agriculture; strengthening security and the rule of law; and providing continued operating budget support to the Afghan government.

"The people of Afghanistan can count on Canada's support as they build a better future for themselves, their families and their communities," Minister Whelan says.

Looking to the Future

The situation in Afghanistan remains tenuous and volatile, but progress is being made. Canada stands firmly behind the Bonn Agreement as the greatest hope for establishing peace and security, reconstructing the country, re-establishing key institutions and protecting human

rights. Canada is committed to a long-term presence in the country through a combination of defence, diplomatic support and development aid that manifests itself in myriad ways such as the new Deh-e Punbah Bridge—and will help to ensure stability and a better quality of life for the people of Afghanistan. ♣

Find out more about the important diplomatic, defence and development contributions that Canada is making to the security and reconstruction of Afghanistan at www.canada-afghanistan.gc.ca.



Chrétien Visits the Troops

Canada's commitment to Afghanistan and the Canadian Forces stationed there was reinforced in a historic visit to Kabul on October 17 by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien.

Mr. Chrétien spoke to members of the Royal Canadian Regiment at the main Canadian base, Camp Julien, noting that during his term in office the Forces "have undertaken more deployments, to more regions, than at any time in Canada's history." He thanked the troops for their efforts and recognized their sacrifices.

"I am deeply impressed by your contribution. But I am vividly conscious of the dangers you face," he said. "By establishing peace and security, you are also providing the groundwork for humanitarian assistance and development programs that will help Afghanistan rebuild its economic, political and judicial institutions."

Canadian Ambassador Christopher Alexander said that Mr. Chrétien met with interim president Hamid Karzai at a lunch where the two discussed the difficult security situation—underscored by intense security surrounding the Prime Minister's visit—as well as Afghanistan's political agenda.

"It was a very valuable visit," Mr. Alexander said. "By coming here, the Prime Minister showed that Afghanistan is a priority not only for Canada, but for the G8 nations, too, and that we are one of the most active and activist players."

For the Prime Minister's full remarks during his visit to Camp Julien visit: www.pm.gc.ca.

photo: CP (Paul Chiasson)

OUR MAN IN KABUL

Canadian Ambassador Christopher Alexander gets to work helping Afghans break down barriers and rebuild lives.

It is not always easy being a diplomat, but no more so than in Afghanistan. Christopher Alexander, who became Canada's first ambassador to the country in July, lives and works in conditions that can best be described as modest but functional, travels in an armoured SUV and has more guards than program officers on his staff. Despite all of that, he is enthused about his new posting.

His logic is simple: he sees a vital role for a Canadian diplomat in Kabul. "Afghanistan has been through an enormous number of conflicts of different types over the past 25 years, and it is a very factionalized place. Our role of breaking down the barriers between factions and restoring trust between groups who were on opposite sides of the barricades is essential."

At only 35, Mr. Alexander is one of the youngest Canadian ambassadors ever appointed. Still, he comes with plenty of experience to help him handle the challenges of Kabul. Since joining the Foreign Service in 1991, he has twice served abroad in Moscow, as Second Secretary from 1993 to 1996 and Minister-Counsellor from 2000 to 2003.

In Ottawa, he was Assistant to the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1996 and 1997, and Deputy Director (Russia) in the Eastern Europe Division from 1997 to 2000.

That experience stands him in good stead in Kabul, where his role is not only to break down barriers between Afghans, but also to coordinate the activities of Canadians working in the country. And there is no shortage of coordinating to do. "Our soldiers are all around us," Mr. Alexander



Ambassador Christopher Alexander in his modest but functional Kabul office.

says, "but Canadian civilians are also very numerous on the ground here in Kabul, working for a variety of NGOs, humanitarian organizations and UN agencies."

Furthermore, Canadians will be in Afghanistan for awhile. "The number one request that everyone here makes of Canada as a leading donor country is that we extend our commitment over the longer term," he adds. "No one knows what the needs will be beyond 2005, but follow-through and continuity are going to be crucial."

Doing all of this is not made any easier by the fact that Kabul remains a highly dangerous place in which to live and work. Mr. Alexander acknowledges that security remains "the number one precondition for success," but the Military Security Guards see to it that he and his staff feel safe. "It's an unprecedented and challenging posting for them, but frankly our work here would not be possible without them."

Above all, he remains optimistic, especially because of the amount of reconstruction he sees taking place in Kabul. "Individual families and organizations are rebuilding their houses, opening their shops, painting their buildings," he says. "Every neighbourhood where people live is a beehive of reconstruction at the micro level." 🍁

To find out more about Canada's diplomatic relationship with Afghanistan, visit www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/afghanistan.



Growing commitment: (left to right): Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham and Ambassador Christopher Alexander meet with Afghan President Hamid Karzai at the presidential palace in Kabul.

DISPATCHES

Setting up an embassy in the Afghan capital has had its challenges, new Consul Peter Marshall reports.

When the Government of Canada announced earlier this year that it would establish an embassy in Kabul, the new mission became the focus of my life. As the Consular Program Manager, I was responsible for getting it up and running.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade decided to set up its embassy in a guesthouse being vacated by the Canadian International Development Agency, although the building required a major upgrade to address security, electrical and operational needs. The international engineering company we initially worked with was not able to get the project in gear in time for the scheduled opening in July 2003, so I got the go-ahead to manage it locally. I hired a couple of local contractors with good reputations and started them off with smaller projects, like installing security grills and a flagpole. We quickly moved on to more substantial jobs, such as raising perimeter security walls, installing secure rooms and safe

Work in progress: Consul Peter Marshall with local contractors and security at the Canadian embassy.

havens, and building a guard hut. As there was little local expertise in electrical matters, the High Commission in Islamabad volunteered its electrical experts to rewire the building and install heating and cooling units and a generator. The house's garden, once lush with grapevines, roses and a mulberry tree, soon resembled a construction site.

Bureaucracy proved not to be a problem; city codes and building permits are non-existent here. Without any commercial banks, financing the project required a creative approach—including trips to Islamabad to bring back funds. We used cellphones for communication, but often could not get through for hours on the oversubscribed system. For the Internet, initially we waited in line at Kabul's first Internet cafés and then purchased our own satellite dish. Unfortunately, everyone else did the same, and the satellite quickly became overburdened and slow—not to mention susceptible to sunspot activity in the afternoon.

There was originally no central heating in the house, and in the early days we would huddle around space heaters in the hope that the creaky old generator would not die during the night. City power was rare, and we did not want to risk the flames and fumes of the kerosene heaters that were standard around town. Now we use city power whenever possible, thanks to a cable we ran to the nearest transformer—earning us the goodwill of our neighbours by improving their electricity supply as well.

I was the only Canadian continuously on site until the welcome arrival of seven Military Security Guards in July. They adapted quickly and helped with many of the tasks. On August 9, after e-mailing pictures of our progress back to Ottawa, we were given the OK to raise the Canadian flag. Much more fine-tuning was required, and it was early September by the time Ambassador Christopher Alexander presented his credentials to the Afghan government, the embassy was opened by Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham—and our operations approximated anything near normal.

The embassy gardens are once more green and lush, and the building will continue to be home for some time to come. With 20-plus staff in a modest four-bedroom house, it is a little cramped, but we are making it work. 🍁



CANADA'S COMMANDER IN AFGHANISTAN

Canada *World View* recently spoke with Major General Andrew Leslie, Canada's senior commander in Afghanistan and Deputy Commander of ISAF (International Security Assistance Force).

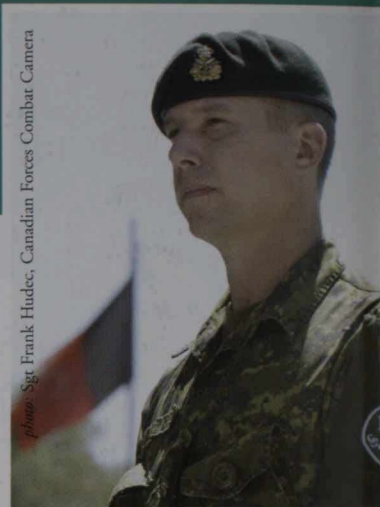


photo: Sgt Frank Hudde, Canadian Forces Combat Camera

Q. Canada has opened an embassy in Kabul. From a Canadian commander's perspective, could you describe the impact of having a Canadian diplomatic mission there?

A. At my level, it's ideal. The military is, in the final analysis, a political instrument. If we had the military operating in isolation, one could question why we were actually here. But by opening the embassy and putting Ambassador Chris Alexander in—he's a good friend, and I like to think we are an extraordinarily good team—it represents both lines of operation. Chris handles the diplomatic and higher-level political skill set; he interfaces, and I worry about things on the ground.

Q. Canada has the largest contingent in ISAF. Could you describe the Canadian Forces' role?

A. Canada provides over 40 percent of ISAF, the largest single contribution. We're also the most technologically advanced in terms of equipment, and arguably have the best trained soldiers.

Our soldiers patrol up in the mountains around Kabul to make sure no unpleasant people are there to fire rockets

into the city. They chase away Taliban or al-Qaeda elements and criminals who prey on the people flowing into Kabul. Equally important, the soldiers patrol inside Kabul, day and night. They take the local police out with them, training them, showing them how we conduct our business in a nation where respect for the rule of law is well established. These "presence patrols" reassure the locals that someone is out there providing security for them. The soldiers also do a variety of health projects.

Q. Describe how Canadian Forces' civil-military cooperation programs influence the relationship between the Canadian Forces and Afghans.

A. We are spending a significant amount of money on civil-military cooperation projects. It's critical, because by spending money on infrastructure, we show the locals that we are making their lives better. What they care about is security, water, food and shelter. If we can help them with those elements, they will see that we are a positive force, not just another invader. Then, when hostile elements try to kill some of the locals or some of us,

Equipped to Deal with Anything

From high-tech armoured vehicles and state-of-the-art radars to the very uniforms they wear, Canada's men and women in Afghanistan have been given the gear they need to stay safe and perform effectively.

Coyote

The Coyote is a highly mobile, well-armed and well-protected armoured vehicle that specializes in battlefield reconnaissance and surveillance. Incorporating a combination of daylight camera, radar, thermal imaging and laser range-finding equipment, the Coyote's surveillance system provides all-weather, day-and-night observation capability.



photo: Sgt Frank Hudde, Canadian Forces Combat Camera

ARTHUR

If hostile elements target Task Force Kabul, Canadian troops will be able to react at a moment's notice, thanks to their new Artillery Hunting Radar, or ARTHUR. A system that pinpoints the location of hostile artillery and mortars, ARTHUR also detects enemy projectiles as soon as they are fired and determines their point of origin.

UAV

Canadian commanders in Afghanistan are using a new surveillance drone to help keep track of possible threats. The unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) is a small, pilotless aircraft that is launched by catapult and can fly for up to five hours, within a 150-km radius. It uses electro-optical sensors to gather information and a datalink to pass it back to controllers on the ground.

perhaps the people we've helped will think twice before letting them. So, it's a force protection issue, as well as a desire to do good.

Q. *Afghanistan is still a very dangerous place. What are you doing to mitigate risks?*

A. We've spent a great deal of time and taxpayers' dollars training our soldiers in how to handle the worst-case scenario: having to fight. We also came up with a long list of equipment that we needed and got it all—some of it extremely expensive, but well worth the investment. Then there's the situational awareness that comes with experience. The majority of the soldiers have a couple of missions under their belts, so they're bringing to Kabul skill sets that they've learned in places like the Balkans. ♣

For a full transcript of this interview please see www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/canada-magazine.

To learn more about the participation of the Canadian Forces in ISAF, visit www.forces.gc.ca/site/operations/Athena/index_e.asp, and to see additional images of their work in Afghanistan visit www.combatcamera.forces.gc.ca.

Improved Land Mine Detection System

To deal with the constant threat of landmines, Canadian forces are relying on the Improved Land Mine Detection System. This Canadian-designed converted armoured personnel carrier uses a magnetic field to project an "imaginary vehicle" over the minefield to detonate buried landmines.

CADPAT

The "disruptive pattern combat uniform" that Canadian Forces are wearing in Afghanistan, called CADPAT, incorporates computer-generated colour patterns that provide excellent camouflage under field conditions. The uniforms have also been treated to reduce detection by near-infrared surveillance equipment.



photo: MCpl Brian Walsh, Canadian Forces Combat Camera



photo: Sgt Frank Hudoc, Canadian Forces Combat Camera

Kabul gridlock

Keeping the Peace

Warrant Officer Sean Chase surveys the rubble that was formerly home to the Kabul Transportation Department. The building's roof has collapsed and cascades like a waterfall into the busy traffic circle across from the Kabul Zoo. "Where do you start?" he muses. "There is simply so much that has to be done."

Chase and the other 1,900 soldiers who make up Canada's Task Force Kabul are responsible for maintaining security in the western part of this city of three million. It's an area of 165 square kilometres, slightly larger than Saskatoon, encompassing both urban areas and rural villages.

Maintaining security means patrolling; within their first week on duty, the Canadians racked up an impressive 196 patrols, and they are keeping to that pace. Navigating military vehicles like the 10-ton LAV III armoured personnel carrier through the mayhem of Kabul gridlock can prove a challenge. Corporal Jay Alefi calls the traffic organized chaos. "The first time I saw it, I thought, you don't want to drive here—it's crazy."

Foot patrols also give the troops the vital advantage of better contact with the locals. "Maintaining positive relations with the citizens of Kabul is essential in order to achieve mission success," says Lieutenant Colonel Don Denne, commander of the Canadian battalion group. The troops are careful and conscious of potential dangers, but they work at being friendly as well as firm. What Denne refers to as "our smile and wave campaign" produces waves in return, and crowds of youngsters seem fascinated with the soldiers.

Good relations are further fostered by the Canadians' secondary focus, humanitarian work. Civil-military cooperation teams determine what the troops can do to help. Lack of clean water is a particular problem in Afghanistan, and Canadians have been busy installing well pumps in the communities around their base. In the longer term, new schools and irrigation systems are planned. And there is constant work for the army's explosives experts, especially with the dangerous task of making Kabul safe from the unexploded shells, grenades and mines that litter the countryside after a generation of war.

It is still early days for Task Force Kabul, but the results seem to be encouraging. "For the most part," says Denne, "the people of Kabul seem genuinely glad to have us here."

CANADIANS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Two years ago when the world's attention was on the defeat of the Taliban, the focus of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) was on what would come next. For organizations and individuals working in the areas of humanitarian assistance and economic reconstruction, the challenge was—and is—to help countries to make the precarious voyage from war, through peacekeeping and peacebuilding, to sustainable peace, order and good government.

Afghanistan had been devastated by decades of war and natural disasters. Eighty percent of the population lives in rural areas, but much farmland was rendered unusable because of landmines and other destruction. Four years of drought added to the misery and starvation and contributed to abysmal health conditions. Maternal mortality was the second highest in the world and a quarter of all children died before their fifth birthday. Three quarters of the population had no access to safe drinking water. Schools were not functioning; hospitals were destroyed; roads were in ruin. There was no peace, no order and no government.

In a land with 50 ethnic groups and 32 languages, the challenge of creating a functioning government was immense, if not insurmountable. It was not easy to

communicate the message that help was at hand and that there was room for hope. CIDA is in the business of hope.

Canada was already familiar with Afghanistan. Throughout the Taliban era, CIDA had been independently providing some \$10-\$12 million annually in humanitarian assistance. Immediately following the crisis that began on September 11, 2001, Canada delivered \$16.5 million in humanitarian aid.

In December of that year, working with partners such as United Nations agencies, the World Bank, NGOs and other countries, Canada promised another \$100 million, and was proud to be among the very first to deliver assistance on the ground.

In a sense, CIDA was prepared for the Afghanistan crisis as a result of experience elsewhere in the world, in places like the Balkans, Rwanda and Somalia. A special team

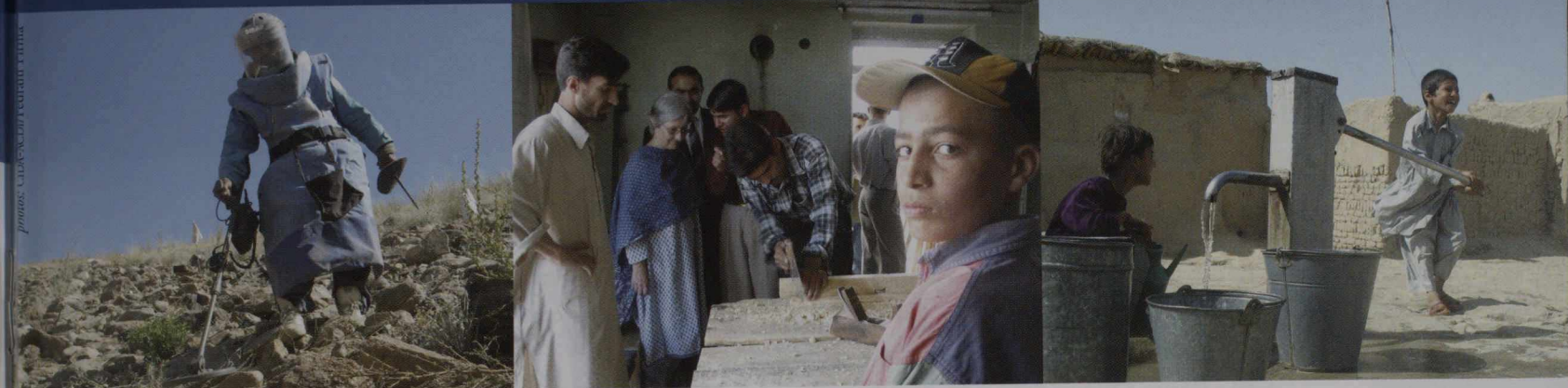
Injecting Hope

It could save their lives, but these children don't exactly appreciate being vaccinated. Every year, millions of children around the globe die from vaccine-preventable diseases. Canada is a leader in the effort to prevent these tragedies through support for initiatives such as the World Health Organization's tuberculosis-control programs in Afghanistan.

Just the Other Side of the Fence

Refugees returning to Afghanistan face many challenges and barriers. The barbed wire fence at the Pol-é-charkhie refugee camp, south of Kabul, is the least of them. CIDA supports the voluntary repatriation of Afghan refugees through the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. The UNHCR contributes to assistance and protection for refugees and internally displaced people and helps their reintegration into their homeland.





Danger! Mines

They're putting their lives on the line for every step forward in the effort to rehabilitate the most mined country in the world. Through support for mine education, the mapping of mine fields and the removal of these deadly threats to life, limb and livelihood, Canada is playing a major role in demining Afghanistan. Globally, we also actively promote the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, known as the Ottawa Convention.

Silent Hopes

The lobby of this school is unusually quiet, in spite of the presence of students of all ages. Of the 40 students here, 30 are hearing impaired, and 10 are orphans. In war-torn Afghanistan, these boys and girls are among the most vulnerable. They are working to better their chances for a future in spite of the challenges they face. At the end of their 10-month carpentry training with the Hearing Impaired Foundation of Afghanistan, a CIDA-financed project, they will no doubt find jobs. Through the sign language that they are also learning, these children will provide a link between the hearing impaired and the rest of the community.

The Joy of Safe Drinking Water

You would smile too if a new well and hand pump were installed in your neighbourhood after years without access to safe drinking water. It's difficult to think of clean water as a luxury, but 77 percent of the population of Afghanistan goes without. Improving water quality contributes to improving community health. CIDA is helping the Rehabilitation Organization of Afghanistan to drill wells and install hand pumps in a rural district of Kabul, providing safe water to more than 5,000 families in the area.

was quickly put in place, coordinated closely with Foreign Affairs and International Trade, National Defence and other key partners.

First came humanitarian assistance to feed and clothe Afghans. Even today, some six million Afghans are still in need of food aid, so the crisis has by no means ended.

Next came basic reconstruction. The immense task of clearing mines has been accelerated, with strong Canadian support. Many roads have been rebuilt and water systems repaired. Yet these and other tasks are proving to be long-term challenges in a region still wracked with violence and uncertainty.

To help build a society where law and order can take root, CIDA has invested some \$18 million, working with partners such as the RCMP, Elections Canada, Justice Canada, various NGOs and most especially Afghans themselves, to nourish the seeds of a democratic tradition. Those seeds may bear fruit when elections are held, hopefully in mid-2004.

Because elected officials need a professional public service to function properly, \$58.5 million has been provided for the operating budget of the transitional government. A number of Afghan-Canadians have

returned to work in the transitional government, helping to establish modern practices and standards.

Overall, Canada has contributed \$300 million in humanitarian and development assistance to Afghanistan since 1990, and is providing a further \$250 million over the next two years. The programs funded by Canadians operate in an environment of risk, and the road to democracy is neither straight nor smooth. Enemies and difficulties are real. Success is not guaranteed.

Canada's contributions to rebuilding Afghanistan are not just monetary or advisory: the men and women working for CIDA and other Canadian, UN, non-governmental and local organizations are at great personal risk. But the risk of inaction is greater. 🍁

To find out more about Canadians making a difference in the world through the Canadian International Development Agency as well as development programs in Afghanistan visit www.acdi-cida.gc.ca.

ON ASSIGNMENT:

“The Current” in Afghanistan

Anna Maria Tremonti is the host of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation’s program “The Current,” heard nationally on CBC Radio One at 8:30 a.m. For four days in September, “The Current” broadcast from Kabul. *Canada World View* asked Ms. Tremonti to share some of her impressions of the Afghan capital.

First impressions

As soon as we landed, as we actually touched down, there was a reminder of how much war this city has seen. The airport tarmac is absolutely littered with fuselage and remnants of planes that were bombed or had crashed. As you drive into the city, you drive by crumbling buildings. Everywhere you look there’s stuff that has fallen apart, and it’s clear that it’s been apart for a while. Right away you get the sense of a place that is very broken.

The mood of the city

At the same time, in the midst of all the crumbling, I got a sense of optimism. The markets are crammed and

life goes on. You see people putting a new window in a building that is still three-quarters crumbled. They’re creating their own little piece of shelter. You see people making do. You see optimism in the sense that they are getting on with their lives.



Anna Maria Tremonti in conversation with Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

The reconstruction process

The big worry that people in Kabul have is that we’ll leave too soon. People really feel that they were abandoned once, which is why the country descended to what it did. They don’t want to be abandoned again; they don’t want people to forget that they need help. The place is not secure. There are a lot of different ways this country could go; it really is on an edge right now.

The people of Kabul

There was nothing but a willingness to talk to me if I wanted to talk to them. Even the women in burqas, when I asked them why they were still wearing a burqa when they were no longer imposed on them by law, not one of them was hostile, not one of them refused to answer. All of them thought about it and explained. I spent a lot of time talking to people on the street, people who had better things to do with their time, quite frankly, than to indulge a Canadian journalist with some dumb questions. But they were always polite about it. I didn’t find that anyone was hostile to me for being a Westerner or for being a journalist.

A final word

For me, despite the devastation of the place, I could see how people fall in love with the city. I could understand the beauty that used to exist in this place. ♣

For a full transcript of this interview please see www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/canada-magazine.

To explore coverage of Afghanistan on “The Current” visit www.cbc.ca/thecurrent/afghanistan.html.

AFGHAN PRESIDENT VISITS OTTAWA

Afghan President Hamid Karzai visited Ottawa on September 27 for meetings with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham, Defence Minister John McCallum and Minister for International Cooperation Susan Whelan.

President Karzai acknowledged Canada’s significant contributions to Afghanistan in the areas of defence, development and diplomacy. At the same time, he stressed the need for continued, long-term assistance.

Speaking with the CBC, President Karzai noted that Afghanistan needs “continued, sustained international help.” Without that assistance, he said, “terrorism will keep affecting my country. It will keep making inroads into the peace and prosperity we’re trying to build for our people, and eventually it will threaten the whole campaign that we have internationally against terrorism. That affected the world two years ago in such a dramatic, sad way [and] might affect it again.... It’s not only for us... it’s also for the rest of mankind.” ♣

TALKING TO OTTAWA:

Canadians Help Shape Their Foreign Policy

On January 22, 2003, Minister of Foreign Affairs Bill Graham asked Canadians to help shape the direction, priorities and choices for Canada's foreign policy through A Dialogue on Foreign Policy. The range of public consultations included the following:

- Minister Graham's participation in 15 town hall meetings across Canada;
- the distribution of more than 12,000 copies of the booklet on the Dialogue paper;
- 19 expert round tables in different parts of the country;
- a Dialogue Web site, which provided up-to-date access to weekly summaries of contributions, video interviews with experts and results of the expert round tables;
- formal meetings with provincial and territorial governments;
- hearings by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade;
- reports from community discussions held in cities across Canada;
- the participation of Ministers Pierre Pettigrew (International Trade), Susan Whelan (International Cooperation), John McCallum (National Defence), David Anderson (Environment), and Secretary of State Jean Augustine (Multiculturalism) (Status of Women) in meetings on issues related to their portfolios; and
- the organization of the March 2003 National Forum for Youth on the theme *The Next Canada: The World We Want*.

Full details of the Dialogue on Foreign Policy process and its results can be found at:

www.foreign-policy-dialogue.ca 🍁

THE VIEW FROM THE TOP

Mark MacGuigan's posthumously published memoirs about his two and a half years as Secretary of State for External Affairs are a frank and affectionate look at the old Department of External Affairs from a 10th floor perspective. In clear and direct prose, Mr. MacGuigan combines anecdote and recollection with thoughtful reflection to explore the domestic and international constraints on ministerial policy making.

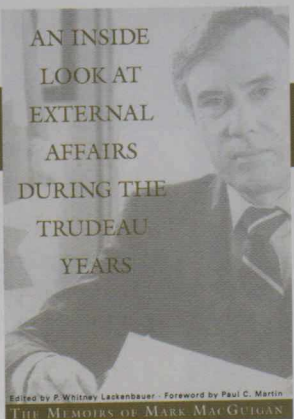
Mr. MacGuigan constantly examines his relationship with his prime minister, Pierre Trudeau. His critical portrait is refreshingly candid: while he acknowledges Trudeau's "overpowering intellect," he is quick to condemn his "facile" anti-Americanism and

abrasive political style. Mr. MacGuigan has a good eye for character, and his surprisingly sympathetic portrait of U.S. President Ronald Reagan and sharp sketches of other world leaders of the early 1980s are also well worth reading.

Like Mr. Trudeau, Mr. MacGuigan was a cool and self-reflective rationalist, who came to office in March 1980 convinced that a country's foreign policy ought to be dictated primarily by its national interest. Neither international law nor morality, he thought, provides much of a basis for a country's foreign policy. And in this short study, he sets out to explain how his diplomacy—in virtually every corner of the globe and across a host of issue

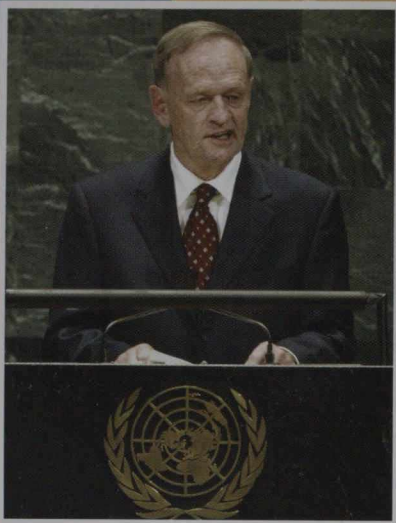
areas—served and advanced Canada's national interest.

Throughout this book of memoirs, there is much evidence of Mr. MacGuigan's close and warm relationship with the officers who served him. He was never a captive of his bureaucracy and, as such, he enjoyed challenging the carefully considered opinions of his officials and shaping policy according to his own views. As a parliamentarian and minister, he only sought for himself what he sought for all Canadians: "a world of creative freedom." 🍁



P. Whitney Lackenbauer (ed.), *An Inside Look at External Affairs during the Trudeau Years: The Memoirs of Mark MacGuigan*, (Calgary, University of Calgary Press, 2002), 208 pages, \$34.95

A longer version of this review first appeared in Bout de Papier.



PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSES UN

Prim Minister Jean Chrétien addressed the United Nations General Assembly on the occasion of the opening of its 58th session on September 23, speaking on “the responsibility to protect.” The following are excerpts from his speech.

As you all know, Canada has always believed in multilateral approaches to global opportunities and problems. We believe in this multilateral cooperation not as an ideology, but as a proven way to enhance security and solve over-arching problems.

Multilateral cooperation is indispensable to ensuring the well-being of citizens and protecting them effectively from harm.

On no issue is progress more necessary or more difficult than the protection of the innocent.

Canada, in partnership with others, advocates putting the protection of

people at the heart of the mandate of this organization.

Too often, conflicts are allowed to ignite, even when the whole world can see what the dreadful consequences will be. Too often, innocent civilians are left to their fate.

The most fundamental duty of a state is to protect its people. When a government cannot—or will not—do so, the responsibility to protect them becomes temporarily a collective international responsibility.

We believe...that in the face of large-scale loss of life or ethnic cleansing, the international community has a moral responsibility to protect the vulnerable. The primary

purpose must be to avert and end human suffering.

No entity is more appropriate than the UN Security Council to authorize military action to protect the innocent. But the member states of the Council have sometimes failed the innocent. Past failures must motivate us to prepare better for future crises. We can reform how this place works. Improve its effectiveness. Enhance its relevance. Inspire its participants. 🍁

For the full text of the Prime Minister’s UN address please see: www.pm.gc.ca.

REACHING OUT TO CANADIANS AND THE WORLD

The Campbellton *Tribune* in northern New Brunswick is a typical Canadian community newspaper, its pages filled with reports on local people and events usually found in a weekly publication with a circulation of under 5,000. Recently, however, its readers have been finding articles typically seen in major dailies, with titles such as “Canada and Afghanistan.” The change stems from briefings by senior officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), the Department of National Defence (DND) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), attended by a group of

community newspaper journalists from across the country, including *Tribune* Editor Bill Clarke. The briefings were organized by DFAIT’s Outreach and Public Affairs section, part of the Department’s Communications Bureau.

The task of the Outreach section is to show Canadians how international events affect their lives and to explain Canada to non-Canadians. To do this, it organizes visits to Canada by foreign opinion leaders, speaking tours across Canada by DFAIT experts, and programs for regional and ethnic media and journalism schools in Canada.

The effort to explain Canada’s mission in Afghanistan is a good

example of the work Outreach does. While the Media Outreach Program gave briefings on Afghanistan, the section’s Foreign Visitors Program provided senior fellows from Harvard University’s Weatherhead Center for International Affairs with information on Canada’s foreign policy approach in Afghanistan. In addition, experts from DFAIT, DND and CIDA participated in a community briefing in Toronto, organized by the section’s Speakers Program and involving members of the academic world, the Canadian Afghan community, think-tanks and the mainstream media. 🍁



CANADA, TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

The results of the Ministerial meeting in Cancun, Mexico, are a clear signal that Canada must redouble its efforts to encourage consensus on strengthening the multilateral trading system.

The past 50 years have seen exceptional growth in world trade. Technological innovation and the international movement of people, goods and services are faster, easier and less expensive. The modern trading system needs modern rules to keep pace with these changes and to ensure the inclusion of all trading nations. Member countries of the World Trade Organization (WTO) are negotiating to ensure the continued existence of such a fair and transparent trading system.

With 146 member countries—soon to be 148 with the entry of the first two least-developed countries, Cambodia and Nepal—the WTO works to ensure that trade flows smoothly, predictably and more freely, ensuring that all members have the opportunity to benefit from the increased opportunities and welfare gains generated by the global trading system.

Canada has a strong interest in a healthy global economy. Trade is central to our economic future. It opens up new markets for Canadian exporters and producers, creates employment opportunities at home, and ensures the health and future of our economy. Mutually beneficial trade rules also increase the chances for global peace and stability.

At the meeting in Cancun held September 10 to 14, Canada and

the other WTO members worked to continue progress on the ambitious global trade agenda negotiated in November 2001 at Doha, Qatar, an agenda that holds the promise of significant benefits for Canadians and for citizens throughout the developed and developing world.

Despite enormous effort on the part of WTO members, the Cancun meeting closed without a full mid-term review because of different levels of ambition for the current round of trade talks, called the Doha Development Agenda. But Canada's objectives for this round have not changed. Our particular interests remain fundamental agricultural reform, improved market access for goods and services, improved trade rules, and helping developing countries integrate into the global economy.

Canada's Minister for International Trade, Pierre Pettigrew, says the Canadian approach is the right one. "Canada is disappointed with the result of the Ministerial meeting, but we will continue to work on getting the agenda back on track and keeping our eyes on the prize we all seek: a balanced and equitable global trading system that benefits Canada's economy and aids the developing world."

The results of the Ministerial meeting are a clear signal that we must redouble our efforts to engage all WTO members in moving forward



Canada hosted an informal meeting of trade ministers from 24 countries—more than half from developing nations—in Montreal last summer to prepare the ground for the WTO Ministerial Conference in Cancun, Mexico. At table (left to right): Amir Khosru Chowdhury, Minister of Commerce of Bangladesh; Mark Vaile, Minister for Trade of Australia; Roberto Lavagna, Minister of Economy and Production of Argentina; Pierre Pettigrew, Minister for International Trade of Canada; Supachai Panitchpakdi, Director General of the WTO; Carlos Pérez del Castillo, Chair of the WTO General Council.

and finding consensus in the months ahead. Canada remains fully engaged in the Doha Round of negotiations and the strengthening of the multilateral trading system.

The Doha Development Agenda round is far from over. WTO members agree that the evolution of the multilateral trading system is one of the best hopes that all countries have to build their economies and societies. Canada will continue to work with partners toward the ambitious outcome we seek to these negotiations. 🍁

For more information on Canada and the World Trade Organization please see www.wto.gc.ca.

PUPPETS FOR PEACE



A bold new television production shows children in the Middle East positive images of themselves and their neighbours.

The Government of Canada is encouraging the use of television as a tool to promote a culture of peace in a region steeped in conflict. Through its Human Security Program, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade is providing funding for a new educational television series that will help create a climate of tolerance and understanding among Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian children.

The new series, called *Sesame Stories*, is the work of the world-famous Sesame Workshop, creators of "Sesame Street." Produced with Palestinian, Israeli and Jordanian partners, the series consists of 26 episodes for each of the three regions in which it will be broadcast—Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, and Jordan.

Aimed at children aged four to seven, *Sesame Stories* was created to encourage mutual respect and understanding. Using a combination of an animated story and live-action film, each episode presents a core theme such as empathy, accepting differences and resolving conflicts peacefully. The stories explore and explain cultures, letting children gain an understanding both of themselves and of others. By presenting positive images of all children in the region, the series will help children feel more tolerant and respectful of the diversity both within and outside their societies. It will also provide children with alternatives to violence, making them feel more optimistic and hopeful about their futures.

"Sesame Stories will deliver hope to millions of children every day," says Gary E. Knell, President and CEO of Sesame Workshop. "Through the involvement of our partners—HOP TV in Tel Aviv, Al Quds University in Ramallah and Jordan Pioneers in Amman—we will continue to work toward creating a culture of peace."

The new production builds on previous success. For the past eight years, Sesame Workshop has been co-producing a children's educational television program with Israeli and Palestinian partners. That series premiered in 1998 and was viewed by

thousands of Jewish Israeli, Arab Israeli and Palestinian children. The series has helped Palestinian and Israeli children learn more about their own and others' languages and culture. This in turn has helped to break cultural stereotypes.

The Canadian funding will be used to develop educational materials and a community outreach program that will help reinforce and extend the goals of the series beyond the television viewing experience. Designed for use in a variety of educational settings, including the home, these materials will include "tolerance kits," teachers' guides, home videos, posters and storybooks.

Sesame Stories premiered in Israel in September, and broadcasts in Jordan, the West Bank and Gaza followed in October. The show's producers are hopeful that it will contribute to a better future in the Middle East, and are looking forward to more projects in the region.

"Providing relevant media content to the Middle East is a long-term commitment for Sesame Workshop and our partners," says Knell. "We've only just begun." 🍁



CLARKSON TAKES CANADIAN CULTURE "UP OVER"

The Governor General of Canada, Adrienne Clarkson, recently made state visits to Russia, Finland and Iceland. With a delegation that included some of the country's most dynamic writers, playwrights and other artists, promoting our modern ties wasn't the only item on the viceregal agenda.

When Canadians think of their neighbours, they tend to look to the United States and Mexico. This is not surprising, given that the majority of Canadians live within an hour's drive of a U.S. town and often holiday on sunny Mexican beaches. Equally close, but a little harder to reach for the average Canadian, are those countries dotted around the Arctic Circle.

These northern neighbours may not be as important economically as those to the south, but they share many things with us: geography, climate, a sensitive environment and indigenous peoples who have an important contribution to make to northern societies. For these reasons, they play an important role in the "northern dimension" of Canada's foreign relations. They are also prime markets for Canada's complex and varied culture.

Since her appointment in 1999, Governor General Adrienne Clarkson has placed great emphasis on the promotion of Canada's north as well

as highlighting the country's dynamic novelists, poets, playwrights, musicians, filmmakers, dancers and visual artists.

On her latest tour, from September 23 to October 15, 2003, the Governor General addressed both of these priorities. The delegation included such prominent cultural figures as choreographer Edouard Locke, playwright René-Daniel Dubois, award-winning writers Michael Ondaatje and Yann Martel and filmmaker Denys Arcand. Among the many cultural events was the commercial premiere of Mr. Arcand's *Les Invasions barbares* at the Central House of Writers in Moscow.

"All of the delegates gave up their time to travel with her to show the world the creative face of Canada through performance, discussions and interviews in the host countries," says Stewart Wheeler, Press Secretary to the Governor General. "Some are from the world of the arts, some from the fields of business, architecture, wine-making and education. What they have in common is that they are all known nationally—and many internationally—for their wide-ranging achievements."

These distinguished leaders in their fields help create new interest and excitement about Canada's modern identity, something that may not be achieved as easily through standard diplomacy.

"We Canadians have come to see, to learn and to get to know this new Russia, and for you to get to know us better," Mme. Clarkson told a



Governor General Clarkson and filmmaker Denys Arcand (seated) appear with host Andrei Kozlov on a nationally televised Russian talk show to discuss Canadian and Russian filmmaking and to promote Arcand's *Les Invasions barbares*.

state dinner in Moscow given by Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation. "Because of the geographic distance between us, we risk losing sight of where, and in what ways, our societies are evolving, our aspirations changing, our cultures adapting to the new circumstances of the modern world. But we should not ever lose sight of one another—certainly not as friends, as fellow northerners, as peoples of vast lands and open spaces."

In 2004, the Governor General will continue her theme of the modern North with state visits to Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Greenland. ❁

You can learn about the Governor General and state visits, read about circumpolar countries and participate in an online forum called the "Quest for a Modern North" at www.gg.ca.

IN BRIEF

Ensemble Noir: promoting Canadian culture and values in a new partnership with Africa.

Ensemble Noir Opens Doors in Africa

Toronto contemporary classical group Ensemble Noir made its first-ever tour of Ghana, Nigeria and South Africa this past summer with the help of cosponsorship by the Canadian government.

"This African tour by Ensemble Noir demonstrates Canada's commitment to promoting Canadian culture and values in a new partnership with Africa," said Jean Augustine, Secretary of State (Multiculturalism) (Status of Women). "Culture influences the way people see Canada and is an important element of Canadian foreign policy."

Led by award-winning South Africa-born composer and conductor Bongani Ndodana, the seven-member

ensemble combines contemporary Western and African music as it performs sounds, rhythms and melodies of traditional African music using Western orchestral instruments. For this historic tour, entitled "Open Doors," Ensemble Noir featured new music by composers from Africa and Canada, including J.H. Kwabena Nketia and Akin Euba, both deans of African classical music.

Canada Contributes to Landmine Education

Canada is contributing \$100,000 to a United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) mine-risk education project in Cambodia.

Cambodia is one of the most heavily mine-affected areas in the

world. The Canadian financing for UNICEF Cambodia will help bring mine-risk education into school curriculums, teacher training and non-formal peer education. The program will help to build knowledge and skills to deal with the threats posed by unexploded landmines.

For more information on Canada's support for landmine action visit www.mines.gc.ca/menu-en.asp.

Canada Makes Inroads in Europe for Wine and Spirits Industry

A new agreement between Canada and the European Union on wines and spirits will significantly open the European market to Canadian products. The agreement was signed

National Arts Centre Orchestra on Tour

Classical met high tech in the National Arts Centre (NAC) Orchestra's tour of Mexico and the United States this fall.

In Mexico, the orchestra performed in Monterrey and Mexico City and at the Cervantino Festival in Guanajuato,

the most prestigious cultural festival in Latin America. U.S. appearances included stops in New York, Washington, D.C., Chicago, Miami and Philadelphia. Led by Pinchas Zukerman as both conductor and soloist, the orchestra presented works by Beethoven, Schubert and Mozart, as well as a major new work by Canadian composer Denys Bouliane.

During the tour, supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade through a \$250,000 travel grant, Maestro Zukerman and musicians from the orchestra also led an ambitious range of master classes, lectures, workshops and sectional rehearsals at leading educational institutions.

The tour was every bit as modern as it was classical. The orchestra coordinated its touring, recording and publishing, linking a growing CD catalogue, cutting-edge Internet projects, and a series of acclaimed study guides.

In Monterrey, the orchestra presented innovative educational activities using Internet video conferencing technology. Schools in Canada, the U.S. and Mexico were linked through the NAC's next-generation Internet facility. Orchestra members also posted diary entries in Web journals on the NAC's highly successful youth Web site, www.ArtsAlive.ca. 🍁



Master class: Pinchas Zukerman teaches on tour in Monterrey, Mexico.



photo: Simon Plaxton



photo: CIDX-ACDI/Pedram Pirnia

during a ceremony held September 16 at Inniskillin Wines in the Niagara Peninsula.

"This is a win for Canada, it's a win for Europe and, most of all, it's a win for wine and spirits producers and consumers in both of our regions, who can now look forward to more trade opportunities and a greater variety of choice than in the past," said Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Lyle Vanclief.

FIERA INTERNAZIONALE DEL LIBRO TORINO
Celebrating Canadian Books

Canada was the celebrated country at this year's Turin International Book Fair. This honour is a sign of the success that Canada has had over the past 20 years in developing export markets for its books.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to increase understanding of Canadian culture and our diverse population abroad," said Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham in announcing Canada's role as guest of honour in Turin. "Recognition of our splendid authors does much to establish Canada's distinctive identity around the world and to showcase our strengths as a country."

Canada was represented by authors Nadine Bismuth, André Charpentier, Douglas Cooper, Derrick de Kerckhove, Margaret Doody, Carole Fioramore-David, Joe Fiorito, Karen Levine, Alistair MacLeod, Alberto Manguel, Yann Martel, Nino Ricci, Nancy Richler, John Ralston Saul, Richard Scrimger, Gaétan Soucy, Drew Hayden Taylor and Larry Tremblay, among others.

CALENDAR

FOREIGN AND INTERNATIONAL

NOVEMBER

November 20-21
Free Trade Area Ministerial Meeting
Miami, U.S.A.

DECEMBER

December 1-2
Organization and Cooperation Ministerial Meeting
Maastricht, Netherlands

December 2-6
28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent
Geneva, Switzerland

December 4-5
North Atlantic Council Foreign Ministers Meeting
Brussels, Belgium

December 5-8
Commonwealth Heads of State and Government Meeting

Abuja, Nigeria

December 10-12
UN World Summit on the Information Society
Geneva, Switzerland

December 17
Canada-EU Summit (Italy)
Ottawa, Ontario

JANUARY 2004

January 12-13
Special Summit of the Americas
Monterrey, Mexico

Canada world view. --

The Tomb of the Father of the Nation in Kabul shows the destructive impact of decades of conflict on Afghanistan.

Asia Television Forum
Singapore

December 4-7
Art Basel Miami Beach
Miami Beach, U.S.A.

December 5-21
Salon des métiers d'art du Québec
Montreal, Quebec

JANUARY 2004

January 30-February 7
26th Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival
Clermont-Ferrand, France

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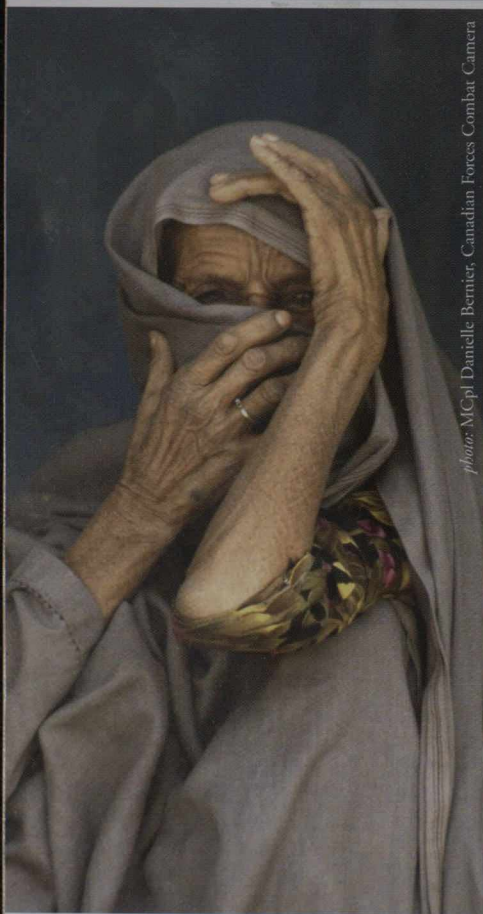


photo: MCpl Danielle Bernier, Canadian Forces Combat Camera



photo: CIDA-ACDI/
Pedram Pirnia



photo: Pedram Pirnia



photo: Pedram Pirnia

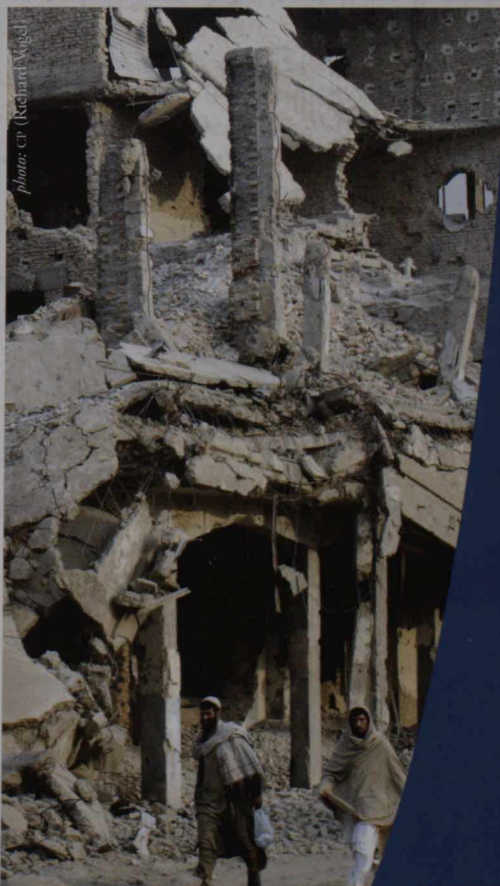


photo: CP (Richard Vogel)



photo: Pedram Pirnia



photo: Pedram Pirnia