



news release

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CANADA PROVIDES RCMP MONITORS TO UNITED NATIONS FORCE IN CROATIA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, and the Solicitor General of Canada, the Honourable Doug Lewis, today announced that Canada will provide 30 police monitors from the RCMP to the United Nations peacekeeping operation in Croatia.

This deployment ensures that Canada is contributing to the key military and police components of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). Canada has already committed one of the largest contingents to the 31-nation force, with 1,200 Canadian Forces personnel.

"I remain deeply concerned about the conflict in various republics of the former Yugoslavia. It's my hope that this new contribution of civilian peacekeepers will help bring stability to the region," said Mrs. McDougall. "Canada was among the first to call for a UN presence in Yugoslavia, and I'm proud to announce another element of our contribution to the important work of this force."

"The effective functioning of local authorities in UN-protected areas is considered essential to the success of UNPROFOR," said Mr. Lewis. "The RCMP, with its established reputation in law enforcement and its experience in Namibia as civilian police monitors, will play a central role, by ensuring that local police carry out their duties without discrimination or abuse of anyone's human rights."

UNPROFOR is in the process of deploying the 13,000-member force primarily in Croatia. The 1,200-person Canadian military contingent has completed its move to Daruvar and is operational in the area. It is expected that the RCMP will operate in the same general area of Croatia as Canada's military contingent.

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