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CANADA

Issue 7 • Spring 2000

World View



Building a Safer World

Protecting People From War:
Canada's human security
priority in 2000

Landmines: A Report Card
The Ottawa Convention makes
a difference

Youth: The new voice in
Canadian foreign policy



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ABOUT CANADA WORLD VIEW

Published quarterly, **Canada World View** provides an overview of current foreign policy issues and Canada's perspective on them. It also updates readers on Canadian initiatives, responses and contributions in the field of international affairs.

OUR COVER

A young boy gazes toward the hills surrounding Kabul, Afghanistan. According to a UNICEF study, 90 percent of the country's children are afraid of dying in the ongoing civil war.

Youth: The **new voice** in Canadian foreign policy

In the last 100 years, humankind has made astonishing progress in science, technology, public health, education, economic conditions and general welfare. But on the darker side, wars are still raging, helpless people are dying, entire populations are being displaced by force, the nuclear threat is ever-present, terrorism is an ongoing plague, crime has become transnational and hundreds of millions of people the world over live in abject poverty.

Enormous efforts are still required to make the world a better, safer place to live in. Canada's human security approach to foreign policy is contributing to the efforts, helping to bring about a more peaceful world. And key to this endeavour are Canadian youth, who are making their voices heard in the development of foreign policy.

In this issue of *Canada World View*, we examine the role of youth in Canada's international relations. Never before have there been so many mechanisms to consult young people and involve them in concrete action against the new, globalized threats to human security.

In today's brave new world, it would be a grave error not to take into account the perspective of youth on global issues. That is why the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) and Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy listen so carefully to the views of young Canadians. We hope you enjoy reading about this and other topics in this issue of *Canada World View*.

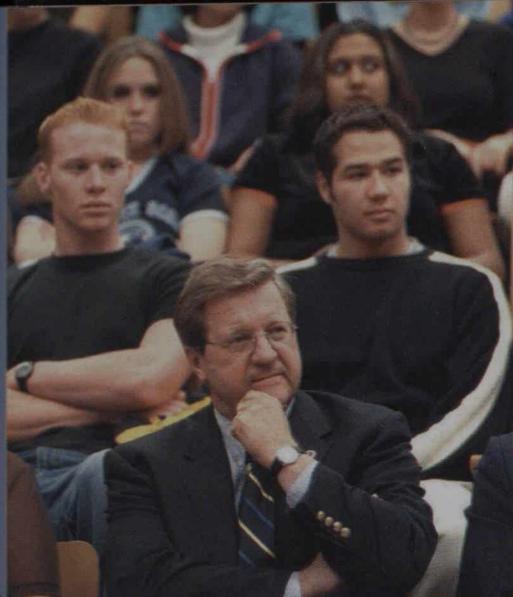
The Editors

To learn more about the human security concept, see last fall's Special Edition entitled "Human Security: Putting People First" or visit the following Web site:
www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/foreignp/humansecurity/menu-e.htm

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PHOTO: CANADIAN PRESS



Minister Axworthy with students at the University of Calgary

Last December, at Canada House in London, England, Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy joined in a unique venture with British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook and students at Churchill High School in Winnipeg and Inveralmond High School in Edinburgh. Together they launched "YouthLinks" (www.youthlinks.org), an Internet dialogue on issues such as human security, human rights and war-affected children. YouthLinks is funded by the International Cultural Relations Program of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. The initiative has now developed into an international Web-based pilot project involving six high schools in Canada, three in Germany and three in Britain.

The Ministers are eager to make use of what the youth perspective has to offer. They know that young people have energy, knowledge, creativity, ideals and skills—just the qualities needed to help achieve major foreign policy objectives, such as international peace and human security.

In Canada, one way for youth to play a part is through DFAIT's Youth International

Programs for young Canadians

Check out our programs for young people. They include Student Exchange Programs, Young Workers' Exchange Programs, the Student Work Abroad Program, International Academic Programs and others. To learn more about these and a career in Canada's Foreign Service, visit the "Canadian Youth" Web site (www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/youth/menu-e.asp). And be sure to comment on the programs and issues that interest you.

Canadian Youth

A role **today** for tomorrow's **foreign policy makers**

Internship Program. Each year, YIIP arranges internships for approximately 400 young people on projects in over 100 countries. The interns get their first career-related international work experience plus a perfect springboard to jobs with an international focus. For more information about YIIP and internships available for 2000-01, visit the Program's Web site (www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/interns).

Around one third of the interns work on projects dealing with human security issues. For example, Ashna Vohra of Montréal spent six months in rural western Nepal, working on a survey to examine the precarious situation of children of bonded agricultural labourers. Fresh from her experience, she speaks of it with emotion: "The majority of children were working by age 12. One had already assumed the debts of his invalid father, himself a lifelong bonded labourer who was unaware how many generations before him had worked to pay the original debt to the landlord." The data she collected will now be analysed; the ultimate aim is to improve the human rights situation of inhabitants of the region.

Another opportunity for youth involvement was the Fourth Annual Canadian Peacebuilding Consultations, held in Ottawa from February 29 to March 1. The Consultations were attended by over 300 representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and government, plus young people. A special plenary session was devoted to the perspectives of five young Canadians. They included the two winners of a peacebuilding essay contest, one recent immigrant from a war-affected country, and two youths who are active within the Canadian NGO network.

For Minister Axworthy, it's no passing whim to involve youth in the development of

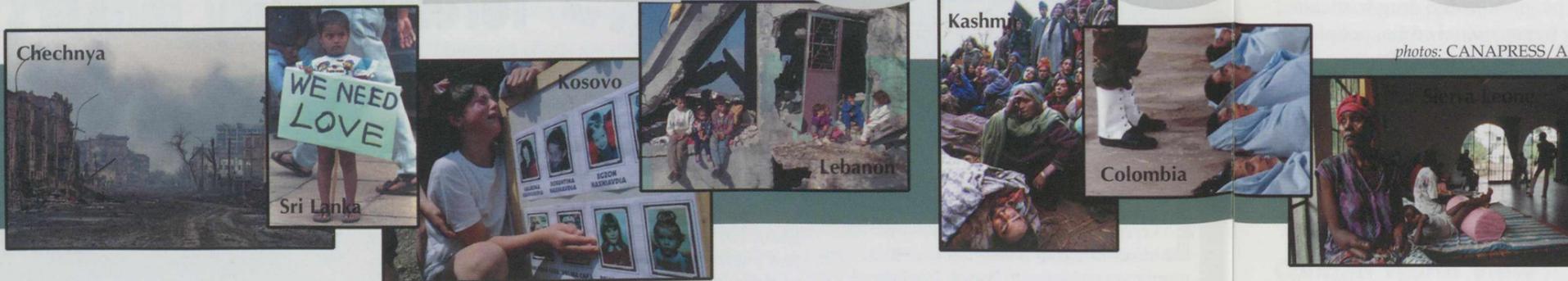


Interns Ashna Vohra, Gaston Gramajo and Priya Ghandikota on training at Human Rights Internet, a Canadian NGO.

foreign policy. On every possible occasion, he meets with high school, college and university students all across Canada. He values their ideas, suggestions and comments, because some day soon they will be the ones making the decisions. The more quickly they find their feet amid the complex realities of today's international relations and begin to get involved, the more effectively will they be able to work toward a better and safer world. ●—

Protecting People **From War**

Canada's human security priority in 2000



photos: CANAPRESS/AP

Wars have always been horrific. Until a decade ago, however, most casualties were military and only 5 percent of victims were civilians. Now civilians account for up to 80 percent of casualties, and wars are increasingly fought within rather than between states.

Foreign Affairs Minister Axworthy said recently, "Civilians have increasingly become tools of warfare—herded about to destabilize governments, pressed into military service, held hostage, exploited sexually, used as human shields. Such attacks are most often carried out with impunity in direct violation of international law. It is now clear that the victimization of civilians is a central component of modern armed conflict."

Canada calls for international action

Early in its current two-year term on the UN Security Council, Canada initiated a debate in February 1999. This led to a comprehensive report, tabled last September by Secretary-General Kofi Annan, on the protection of civilians in armed conflict. The Council unanimously adopted a Canadian resolution establishing a working group, chaired by Canada, with the task of seeking implementation of the report's 40 recommendations.

In particular, the report calls for practical measures to prevent conflict, including: preventive peacekeeping; strengthening of the UN's

ability to respond rapidly when a crisis breaks out, notably through rapidly deployable units; imposition of arms embargoes; greater use of targeted sanctions against belligerents; and, in the face of massive and ongoing human rights abuse, consideration of appropriate international action.

Protecting children

Protecting civilians starts with the most vulnerable: children. The record of the past decade is grim: close to 2 million children killed, more than 4 million disabled and over 1 million orphaned. More than 300 000 girls and boys—some as young as age 7—served in armies and rebel groups as fighters, porters, messengers, spies, labourers and sex slaves. Over 10 million were psychologically scarred by the trauma of abduction, detention, sexual assault and witnessing the brutal murder of family members.

Mr. Axworthy has made the issue a central priority of his human security agenda. "Promoting children's security is indispensable to promoting human security," he says. "We cannot possibly hope to build a secure world without due regard to those who will inherit it."

Among possible actions, Canada strongly supports the inclusion of child protection specialists in UN peacekeeping operations, and it is examining ways to ensure that children's rights and needs are a central consideration in every stage of conflict. In April, when it again presides

over the Security Council, Canada will promote specific measures to strengthen human security and increase the protection of children in conflict situations.

International conferences

On April 27 and 28 in Accra, Canada and Ghana co-host the West African Conference on War-Affected Children. The aim is to bring governments, civil society and youth together to produce a concrete plan of action for addressing the multiple needs and problems of the region's child victims of war. Among the topics for discussion: disarming and demobilizing child soldiers; the role of the military in child protection; and rehabilitating and re-integrating war-affected children.

In September, Canada will host an international conference examining various aspects of the plight of children affected by war, including East Timorese children who have lost access to schools and health clinics, ethnic Albanian children traumatized by conflict in Kosovo, and child soldiers in Sierra Leone who were exploited and forced to commit atrocities. Participants are expected to agree on a common approach and specific actions for war-affected children. ●

The Darker Side of Globalization Modern threats to the security of people

While war is the main threat to the security of the individual, there are many others: a growing illicit drug trade, the lethal traffic in small arms, migrant smuggling, terrorism, transnational crime and more. These are manifestations of a disturbing trend in international affairs: the globalization of direct threats to the security of the individual. Such global challenges require a transnational response. Canada is a leader in combatting the threats in two key related areas: the trade in small arms and in drugs.

Small arms

Each year, 700 000 civilians are killed by small arms fire. Because they are inexpensive, simple to use and portable, small arms lower the barrier for violence and terror. Their widespread availability multiplies their lethal effectiveness and makes conflict easier. They have truly become weapons of mass destruction and they are often in the hands of civilians, rebel forces and makeshift militias.

At the European Union (EU) Foreign Ministers Meeting in Helsinki in September 1999, the EU and Canada took a common approach to the problem of small arms accumulation, creating the EU-Canada Working Group on Small Arms. The EU and Canada will promote international and regional efforts to curb the use of these weapons.

In December 1999, representatives from Canada and 17 other countries identified key areas for attention, including arms brokering, documentation, anti-diversion procedures, international standards and regulation, legislation and enforcement, training, and information exchange.

Illicit drugs

By its very nature, the closely related illegal drug trade is a direct threat to the safety of the individual. Canada recognizes that no aspect of the drug problem can be dealt with in isolation from the surrounding economic, social and political circumstances. This is why it is taking a holistic approach to stemming the flow of illicit drugs. For example, Canada recognizes the links between the illegal trade in drugs and the trade in firearms, as well as the need to involve local interests in the design and implementation of anti-drug policies. In the field, this means working through embassies to provide assistance to local organizations or promoting alternative crops in a way that avoids distortion of local economies.

What these efforts have in common is a human security focus. For many, it is a new and unfamiliar way of dealing with the issue. But as Minister Axworthy says, "There is room for a holistic approach to the drug problem, and human security offers that approach."

Interview with Paul Heinbecker

DFAIT's senior officer responsible for global and security policy talks with **Canada World View**

The term "human security" may be of recent origin but the ideas that underpin the concept are far from new.

For more than a century—at least since the founding of the International Committee of the Red Cross in the 1860s—momentum has been gathering for a doctrine based on the security of people. Core elements of such a doctrine were formalized in the 1940s in the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Geneva Conventions.

Yet despite these legal instruments, human rights are violated on a daily basis around the world. What can be done to change this sad reality? This is the question *Canada World View* asked Paul Heinbecker, Assistant Deputy Minister (Global and Security Policy) at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

Canada World View

Mr. Heinbecker, first of all, can you explain to us how the concept of human security was developed and how it became a central element of Canadian foreign policy?

Mr. Heinbecker

First we have to look at the concept of sovereignty, which goes back some centuries. The Westphalia Treaties of 1648, which put an end to the Thirty Years' War and which established the notion of national sovereignty, gradually changed the nature of society in Europe.

The end of the Second World War and the creation of the United Nations in 1945, followed by the adoption in 1948 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the UN, marked a turning point. As the world became more democratic, it naturally became more concerned about the safety of people.

Spectacular technological developments in the last 50 years—particularly television, satellites and now the Internet—contributed to a dramatic change in the way we perceive the world. Images of merciless and bloody conflicts in Europe, Africa and elsewhere come to us every day, engaging our conscience.

Another key factor is the fact that the nature of war itself has changed. Wars used to be fought between professional armies. Now, warlords deliberately target the most vulnerable: women, children, the poor and the weak.

This made us realize that while the concept of national sovereignty is necessary, it is not sufficient as a central organizing principle in international affairs. Between 1990 and 1995, some 70 states were involved in 93 internal and regional wars that resulted in more

than 5 million victims. We realized as well that globalization brought new threats to people's safety: drug trafficking, terrorism, transnational crime, people smuggling, small arms proliferation and others. In the practical response to these threats, the concept of human security was born. It is fair to say that Minister Axworthy pioneered both the concept and the practice.

Canada World View

Have there been any concrete results yet?

Mr. Heinbecker

There have. If you look at the Landmines Treaty [see article, p. 8], it is clear that when governments, non-governmental organizations and ordinary citizens work together, positive things can be accomplished.

The UN peacekeeping mission in Sierra Leone is another example. For the first time, a UN mission has been given the mandate, within the limits of its capabilities, not only to maintain peace but also to protect civilians whose lives are threatened.

In many other areas Canada is working in partnership with like-minded countries in such multilateral forums as the UN, the G-8, the Organization of American States, the Commonwealth and La Francophonie. The aim is to achieve progress on issues such as the protection of civilians in armed conflicts, the protection of and assistance to war-affected children, the campaign to reduce accumulations and trade of small arms, the protection of humanitarian workers, the negotiations to establish the International Criminal Court, the promotion and protection of human rights internationally, the 12 conventions against terrorism, the proposed transnational organized crime

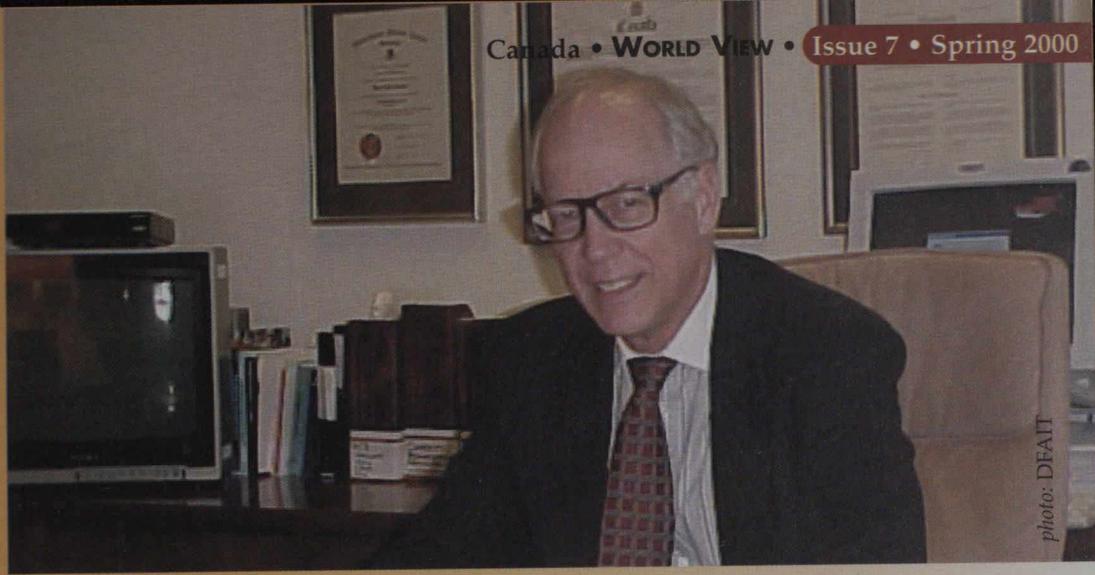


photo: DEAIT

convention, drug trafficking, the smuggling of people, and so on. These issues are priorities for Minister Axworthy and form the core of the human security agenda.

As a matter of fact, in Canadian foreign policy we can now say that the security of people is treated with the same concern and urgency as the security of states.

Canada World View

This raises the highly sensitive issue of the right of intervention in the affairs of other states. When is it appropriate to intervene and when not to? There seem to be contradictions in the way the principle is applied. What do you say to those who accuse Western democracies of inconsistency in putting the principle into practice?

Mr. Heinbecker

Obviously this is a difficult question. Let me begin by saying that humanitarian intervention is not just a Western concept. It is a human imperative, particularly when governments grossly abuse their own people, or when states fall and warlords prevail. Whether we want it or not, we are inevitably affected by these conflicts. First, the abuse of the innocent affronts our values and is in violation of the growing body of international humanitarian law. Second, we have a direct interest: we accept refugees, we send humanitarian assistance, we contribute peacekeeping troops, we help rebuild afflicted societies and rehabilitate their populations. When we see acute suffering and widespread loss of life, we have a moral obligation to respond and, if necessary, to intervene.

Having said that, it is important that the international community act collectively,

preferably through the UN, first to try to prevent a conflict and then to intervene to stop a conflict or gross abuse of human rights. The most difficult issue is whether to intervene when the Security Council is paralysed. There was no consensus in the Council to intervene in Rwanda in 1994, and a genocide ensued. There was no UN Security Council consensus to intervene in Kosovo in 1999, and NATO decided that it could not turn a blind eye to inhumanity on its doorstep.

Another difficulty is coherence. But consistency can never mean doing nothing because we cannot do everything. The international community helps where it can and over time gives itself the ability to expand its reach. That is why it is so important to ensure the effectiveness of the UN Security Council, including its political will to act. And we are working very hard at it.

Canada World View

Talking about future generations, how do you see the role of youth? Should they be involved in the human security agenda? Should they be educated to learn such values as tolerance, openness to other cultures and generosity?

Mr. Heinbecker

I think many of the conflicts and human rights abuses in the world are the result of attitudes that are taught in the home and in schools. If we want the world to

become more democratic and peaceful, we have to educate people in democratic values. And this starts at an early age. We also have to educate the educators. It does little good (in Kosovo, for example) if teachers on the opposing sides inculcate hatred in their students. I have no doubt that educating young people and involving them in human security activities will bring a better world.

YouthLinks [see article, p. 3] is an excellent example of this. I hope that other Canadian schools can become linked to schools in countries around the world. Our international internships are also important. In my view, they enhance global understanding and help to reduce tensions in the world.

The Internet revolution has the potential to become the single most important instrument of human security in the world. Let's put it to good use! ●—



photo: CANAPRESS

LANDMINES

The Ottawa Convention

makes a *difference*



Nicaraguan Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Edmundo Castilla Salazar talks with Norway's Foreign Minister Knut Vollaabæk and Minister Axworthy after Nicaragua's signing of the Ottawa Convention, December 4, 1997. In front: Ottawa schoolchildren.

This past March 1 marked an important anniversary: exactly one year since the entry into force of the Ottawa Convention—or, to give its full legal name, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

The treaty had been opened for signing a little over two years before, in December 1997. From that time, events moved swiftly. Just 15 months later the Convention came into force, setting a record for an international disarmament agreement. As of March 1 a total of 137 countries had either signed or acceded to the Convention, and 92 had ratified it.

There have been many other markers of progress:

- The new international norm for anti-personnel (AP) mines has met with widespread acceptance, even on the part of nations that have not signed the treaty. For instance, Russia, China and the United States have all adopted partial bans of some kind on the use, trade or production of AP mines.
- The once-flourishing legal trade in mines has collapsed. The number of mine-producing countries is down from over 54 to 16, including many countries that have not actually manufactured anti-personnel mines in recent years.
- Mine exports have been halted by all but a handful of mine-producing countries.
- Some 17 million stockpiled mines have been destroyed since 1996. Canada, Germany, Ireland, Norway, Switzerland and some other countries have destroyed their entire stockpiles.
- Several country-to-country and regional agreements have emerged, with signatories pledging to clear existing minefields and not to plant new ones.
- The International Campaign to Ban Landmines has made progress in its efforts to persuade insurgent and other organizations (in diplomatic jargon, “non-state actors”) to observe the ban. Among the groups that have renounced the use of mines are the Taliban of Afghanistan, the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unit, the Casamance movement of Democratic Forces in Senegal, and fighting factions in southern Sudan.
- Perhaps the most encouraging sign of fundamental change is that there has been no large-scale planting of mines over the past two years.

Mine clearance

Mine clearance organizations once measured progress by counting the mines removed. Now they count the fields, roads, irrigation systems and other infrastructure returned to productive use. Lack of data and uneven reporting standards make it difficult to estimate gains precisely, but significant progress has been achieved in some of the world's most severely mine-infested countries. For example:

- In Afghanistan, 64 percent of mined residential areas and irrigation systems, and 33 percent of mined roads were cleared from 1993 to 1998. Approximately 93 percent of cleared land is now in productive use.
- In Cambodia, 23 percent of suspect land was cleared or declared mine-free by 1999.
- In Mozambique, about 7400 kilometres of road were mine-free and open for use by 1999.
- In Nicaragua, more than 1.2 million square metres of suspect land has been declared safe since 1993.
- In Jordan, 88 minefields have been cleared, freeing up more than 7 million hectares.

We are becoming **"una gran familia."** A family of different cultures, of different languages and of many races, but a family nonetheless with shared values and shared goals . . . a family that cares for each other, that reaches out to help and encourage each other . . . that understands that our land is the Hemisphere from the Yukon to Tierra del Fuego.

—Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, April 1998



CANADA AND THE AMERICAS: One Big Family

The family of the Americas is about to gather once again in Canada. From June 4 to 6, the city of Windsor, Ontario, will host the annual General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS). This event brings OAS Foreign Ministers together to discuss major hemispheric issues, such as the fight against drug trafficking, the promotion and protection of human rights, and the strengthening of democracy. Canada is celebrating its 10th anniversary as an OAS member. It will use the 2000 OAS General Assembly as a first opportunity to join with its hemispheric partners in considering themes for the 2001 Summit of the Americas, to be held in Québec City.

Geographically, economically and politically, Canada's future is directly linked with that of the Americas. Together, we stand at a significant moment in our history. We face the collective challenge of transforming the region's economic, social and political promise into a more prosperous and secure future for all citizens of the Americas.

—Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy

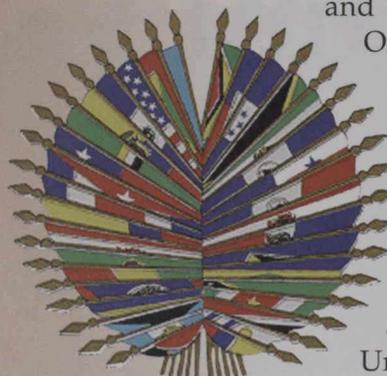
Canada 



Removing landmines in Nicaragua, January 29. The OAS is assisting in the operation.

Canada and the Organization of American States

The OAS is the world's oldest regional organization, founded in 1890 as the International Union of American Republics. In 1910, this organization became the Pan American Union. In April 1948, nearly 40 years later, 21 countries joined together to establish the OAS. Canada became a Permanent Observer in 1972, and it joined as the Organization's 33rd member on January 8, 1990.



Since then Canada has become an active and respected leader within the OAS in several areas, including landmine removal, institutional renewal, the promotion of human rights and combating the trade in illicit drugs. Canada has been influential in generating reforms in the Organization. One notable advance was the creation of the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy, which has overseen elections and managed hemispheric demining programs; currently heading the Unit is Canadian Elizabeth Spehar. Other innovations included promotion of dialogue among hemispheric parliamentarians, development of guidelines for the participation of civil society and adoption of greater fiscal responsibility. Canada continues to promote wider institutional renewal as it strives to make the OAS more relevant, more dynamic and better able to respond to the changing realities of the region.

The premier political forum for hemispheric policy discussions and decision making, the OAS plays a key part in implementing many Summit of the Americas commitments. It is also a leading regional force for strengthening democracy and encouraging sustainable development. Particularly important for Canada, the OAS is assisting in the regional eradication of anti-personnel mines.

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Canada hosts the Americas

In 1999, Canada moved firmly to the centre of the hemispheric stage as we hosted a series of major inter-American events. First was last summer's celebration of youth, sport and culture at the Pan American Games in Winnipeg, from July 23 to August 8. During the Games, the Canada Place exhibition showcased our country's role in the Hemisphere, and this was where Foreign Affairs Minister Axworthy launched the **AmericasCanada.org** Web site, focussing on activities leading up to the 2001 Summit of the Americas.

Next came the Ninth Conference of Spouses of Heads of State and Government of the Americas, held in Ottawa from September 29 to October 1. Canada's successful organization of the Conference helped advance our priorities on numerous issues, including child development, health and education.

As Chair of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations for the first 18 months of the process, Canada hosted the FTAA Trade Ministers' Meeting in Toronto on November 3 and 4. Immediately preceding it, from November 1 to 3, was the Fifth Americas Business Forum, organized by Canadian business associations with assistance from the federal government. At the Forum, the Americas' business community generated concrete, practical proposals for facilitating hemispheric commerce. Participants also had the opportunity to talk with Trade Ministers and hence to contribute to the FTAA process. At the same time, Americas' corporate leaders took advantage of the Forum to promote their companies and develop strategic international business contacts.



Image: Pan American Games Society



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Assembly:

first time in its
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were students
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Guyana, Haiti,
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at the General Assembly. Also to be presented are results of the first gathering of hemispheric parliamentarians under the Parliamentary Network of the Americas.

Canada will seek to make the Windsor meeting more inclusive, conducted in a spirit of institutional transparency and openness. Immediately before the General Assembly, Mr. Axworthy will participate in a Democracy Forum organized by the Montréal-based International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development and the OAS Unit for the Promotion of Democracy. In Windsor, Canada expects to welcome the largest civil society contingent ever seen at an OAS General Assembly. In addition, Foreign Ministers will be presented with a youth declaration by a representative of the Model OAS General Assembly (MOAS), held at the University of Alberta in Edmonton this past March 27 to 31.

The Cultural Showcase: An invitation to the public

In Windsor, the public will have a chance to see examples of Canadian-led initiatives in the OAS and also to learn about the General Assembly's host city and the surrounding region of Essex County. Opening in late May, the Cultural Showcase will include a children's art exhibit on human rights, an OAS Museum of the Americas exhibit, an exhibit on banning landmines, an Interactive Americas kiosk, and a City of Windsor and Essex County display.

Complementing the Showcase will be a program of waterfront activities as part of the Carousel of Nations multicultural festival sponsored by the City of Windsor. Events will include performances by local musicians, artists and dancers, plus a display of fireworks and a flotilla along the Detroit River.

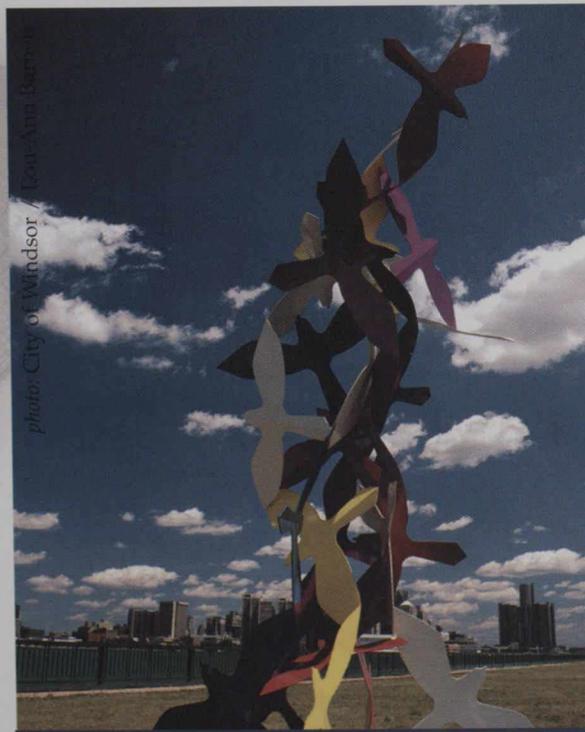


photo: City of Windsor / Leo Ann Barwick

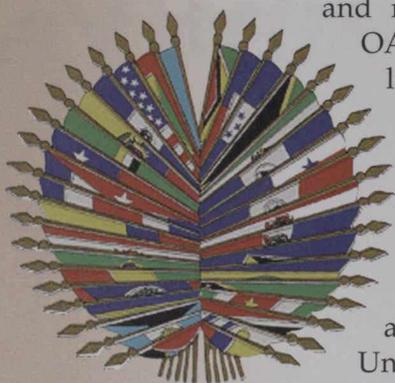
Morning Flight, Gerald Gladstone's soaring sculpture, against the backdrop of the city of Windsor, Ontario



Removing landmines is assisting in the

Canada and the Americas

The OAS is the oldest inter-American organization, founded in 1890 by 21 American Republics. In 1948, the American Union was created, and 21 countries joined. Canada became a member in 1960, and it joined as a full member on January 8, 1990.



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The premier political forum for hemispheric policy discussions and decision making, the OAS plays a key part in implementing many Summit of the Americas commitments. It is also a leading regional force for strengthening democracy and encouraging sustainable development. Particularly important for Canada, the OAS is assisting in the regional eradication of anti-personnel mines.

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of State and Government of the Americas, held in Ottawa from September 29 to October 1. Canada's successful organization of the Conference helped advance our priorities on numerous issues, including child development, health and education.

As Chair of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations for the first 18 months of the process, Canada hosted the FTAA Trade Ministers' Meeting in Toronto on November 3 and 4. Immediately preceding it, from November 1 to 3, was the Fifth Americas Business Forum, organized by Canadian business associations with assistance from the federal government. At the Forum, the Americas' business community generated concrete, practical proposals for facilitating hemispheric commerce. Participants also had the opportunity to talk with Trade Ministers and hence to contribute to the FTAA process. At the same time, Americas' corporate leaders took advantage of the Forum to promote their companies and develop strategic international business contacts.



Image: Pan American Games Society

Human security: At the heart of Canada's agenda

The OAS has embraced the concept of human security, largely as a result of the Canadian-led drug dialogue at last year's General Assembly in Guatemala. Advancing human security issues will be a key objective in Windsor. In a speech to the OAS Permanent Council on February 11, Minister Axworthy proposed a dialogue session on this important issue at the General Assembly.

Canada's goal is to strengthen the connections between the family of inter-American institutions, including the Inter-American Children's Institute, the Inter-American Commission of Women and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. To give further impetus to work on the proposed American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Populations, Canada will be looking for a strong resolution on Indigenous issues at the General Assembly. Also to be presented are results of the first gathering of hemispheric parliamentarians under the Parliamentary Network of the Americas.

Canada will seek to make the Windsor meeting more inclusive, conducted in a spirit of institutional transparency and openness. Immediately before the General Assembly, Mr. Axworthy will participate in a Democracy Forum organized by the Montréal-based International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development and the OAS Unit for the Promotion of Democracy. In Windsor, Canada expects to welcome the largest civil society contingent ever seen at an OAS General Assembly. In addition, Foreign Ministers will be presented with a youth declaration by a representative of the Model OAS General Assembly (MOAS), held at the University of Alberta in Edmonton this past March 27 to 31.

The Model OAS General Assembly: The voice of youth

The Edmonton gathering marked the first time in its 20-year history that the MOAS was held outside of Washington, D.C. Attending the event were students from 46 post-secondary institutions in Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States and Venezuela. Canada was represented by students from 18 academic institutions in five provinces (Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec).

Much like the OAS General Assembly, the MOAS brings together students from all over the Americas to debate and discuss hemispheric issues, with each university representing a different OAS member country. Traditionally the MOAS has been led by students from the United States; in contrast, the Edmonton gathering attracted a significantly larger number of students from Latin America and the Caribbean, making it a truly hemispheric event.

The Cultural Showcase: An invitation to the public

In Windsor, the public will have a chance to see examples of Canadian-led initiatives in the OAS and also to learn about the General Assembly's host city and the surrounding region of Essex County. Opening in late May, the Cultural Showcase will include a children's art exhibit on human rights, an OAS Museum of the Americas exhibit, an exhibit on banning landmines, an Interactive Americas kiosk, and a City of Windsor and Essex County display.

Complementing the Showcase will be a program of waterfront activities as part of the Carousel of Nations multicultural festival sponsored by the City of Windsor. Events will include performances by local musicians, artists and dancers, plus a display of fireworks and a flotilla along the Detroit River.

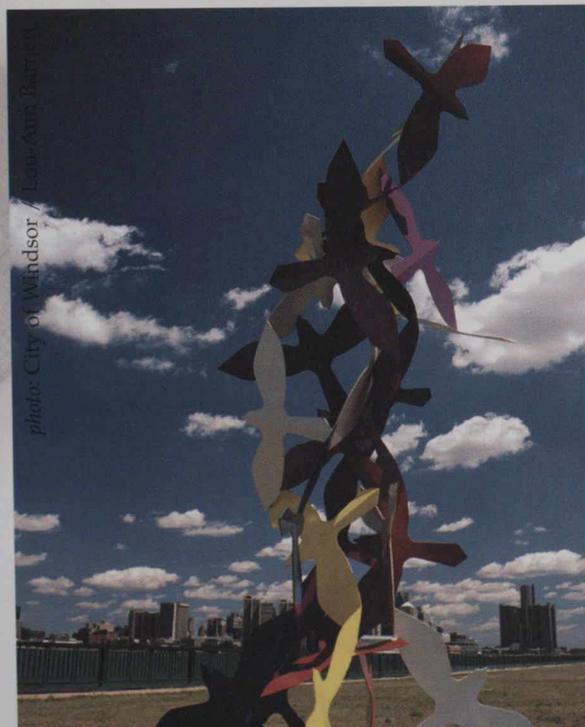


photo: City of Windsor / Lisa Ann Barrett

Morning Flight, Gerald Gladstone's soaring sculpture, against the backdrop of the city of Windsor, Ontario

The 2001 Summit of the Americas

Santiago Summit, April 1998



The first Summit of the Americas took place in 1994 in Miami, and the second was in 1998 in Santiago, Chile. Both meetings fostered practical co-operation on issues of direct relevance to Canada's economic and human

security priorities. The Action Plan adopted in Santiago mandated efforts in four areas: education, democracy, the reduction of poverty and discrimination, and economic integration and free trade.

From April 20 to 22, 2001, Presidents and Prime Ministers will convene at the Summit of the Americas in Québec City to chart a course for the new millennium. As Chair of the Summit, Canada will play a leadership role in developing the agenda and overseeing the preparatory process.

At the Summit, Canada will work in close consultation with our partners, among them the OAS, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Pan American Health Organization, the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the World Bank. The aim will be to ensure the development of a Plan of Action that is people-focussed and practical.

OAS Member States

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Kitts and Nevis, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela

OAS Permanent Observers

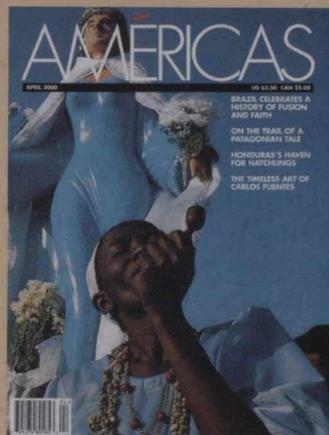
Algeria, Angola, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Holy See, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Latvia, Lebanon, Morocco, Netherlands, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Yemen

Américas magazine

Américas, the bimonthly award-winning magazine published by the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, is now available in English and French in Canada. The first issue of *Américas* appeared in March 1949; now, for the first time ever, the French-speaking population of the Americas can read the magazine in a French-language version. Its creation, along with the distribution of both English and French editions in Canada, was made possible in part by financial support from the Canadian government.

Américas offers its readers a reflection on their common and disparate past, and thoughtful consideration of the events that bind us together across the Americas. It is an excellent

tool for informing Canadians about the Hemisphere, and for sharing with the peoples of the Americas what life is like for those of us who live "up north."



The 68-page April issue of *Américas* carries an article about Windsor,

the host city of the next OAS General Assembly. It also includes articles about the cultural mosaic of Brazil, the Patagonia region of Argentina, the protection of sea turtles in Honduras, the preservation and restoration of religious art and architecture in the city of Arequipa in Peru, and renowned Mexican writer Carlos Fuentes.

To order a subscription of *Américas* (C\$24.00 per year), telephone 1-800-267-8376 (toll-free). ●—

Web sites

www.AmericasCanada.org

Hemisphere Summit Office, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/oas

Permanent Mission of Canada to the OAS

www.oas.org

Organization of American States



Department of Foreign Affairs
and International Trade

Ministère des Affaires étrangères
et du Commerce international

Youth Mine Action Ambassador Program

As part of a wider outreach effort by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, youth ambassadors are working in eight cities across Canada to interest and involve young Canadians in mine action. Projects in the first two years have included awareness building, regional youth conferences and fund-raising. A joint initiative with the Canadian Red Cross and Mines Action Canada, the program receives funding from DFAIT through the Mine Action Team and the Youth International Internship Program.

Casualties decline

Because many casualties go unreported or unrecorded, no one knows precisely how many people AP mines are still killing and wounding. But there is evidence of improvement:

- In Afghanistan, mine accidents declined by about 50 percent from 1993 to 1998.
- Cambodia's 1998 casualty rate was half the 1996 rate.
- Heavily mined Bosnia has seen a huge reduction in the number of deaths and maimings, from an average of 56 per month in 1995 to 5.5 per month by late 1998.
- In Mozambique, casualties fell from an average of 55 per month in 1995 to fewer than 7 per month in 1998.

Canadian Landmine Fund

The Canadian Landmine Fund was launched by the Government of Canada in December 1997. It is providing \$100 million over five years to activities that support the goals of the Ottawa Convention.

The Fund's efforts have focussed on two main areas:

- pressure for full and universal implementation of the Convention; and
- support for activities such as land clearance, mine awareness training, victim assistance, and research and development of new mine action technologies.

In its first year, the Fund made multi-year commitments to projects in many of the world's most heavily mine-affected regions. These included a \$10 million program in Bosnia, \$10.46 million for mine action in Mozambique and \$4.5 million for programming in Central America. In all, projects in 19 countries received support from the Fund in 1998-99.



Canadian soldier prepares anti-personnel mine for disposal in Bosnia.



Canadian military provides demining training in Cambodia.

Kosovo

In November 1999, Canada pledged additional resources to deal with the aftermath of conflict in the Balkans, including a further \$5 million over two years for mine action in Kosovo. The UN estimates that it will take two to three years to clear the province of mines and munitions. The Canadian Mine Action Program in Kosovo has given support to the UN Mine Action Centre, victim assistance, mine awareness training, and land clearance to permit the resettlement of displaced Kosovars. ●—

For more information on anti-personnel mines and the Canadian mine action program, visit the "Safe-Lane" Web site (www.mines.gc.ca) or call 1-800-267-8376 or (613) 944-4000.

Enfants d'ici ou d'ailleurs

Quebec students promote
human security for the world's children

Three years ago, a group of students from the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) developed a project with the aim of encouraging cultural development among elementary schoolchildren in Quebec and other regions of La Francophonie. They called their project *Enfants d'ici ou d'ailleurs*, or EIA (Children from here or elsewhere).

Under EIA, each year nine university students visit an elementary school in Quebec or abroad. They donate books and other materials to a school in a developing country, they help schoolchildren discover another culture—and in doing so they participate in developing Canada's human security agenda.

In the field

So far, EIA participants have visited Tunisia and Benin, and in May they are going to Senegal. Eventually, *Enfants d'ici ou d'ailleurs* hopes to arrange visits to all the 47 countries of La Francophonie. All groups include students from UQAM's political science, education and communications departments. This year the project expanded to include students from the Université de Montréal.

EIA's co-president is Catherine Émond, and Karim Laz is co-director. They say, "By helping schoolchildren look at their own culture and compare it with a different one, we hope to create a new openness and prevent the emergence of racial and cultural prejudices. We believe that if schoolchildren learn tolerance, openness and an interest in other cultures, these qualities will last a lifetime."

Participants have visited classrooms in Quebec and abroad, produced two short videos on the culture of Quebec and a foreign country, and drafted two booklets. Political science students also write an essay on the human security dimensions of the project for the Government of Canada.

Human security

The focus on human security stems from EIA's mandate, which is to encourage the cultural development of children in La Francophonie and to provide assistance to poorly equipped elementary schools in developing countries. EIA believes that its actions promote human development and hence human security.



Catherine Émond talks with Mr. Axworthy at UQAM, January 27.

Enfants d'ici ou d'ailleurs has received financial support from the Canadian government, including a \$50 000 grant from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. The grant was presented by Foreign Affairs Minister Axworthy when he met with the group at UQAM on January 27.

At the presentation Mr. Axworthy said, "I am very impressed by what you do and by your commitment toward human security. By creating links between Canadian and foreign schoolchildren, you contribute to a better society for all. You have an extraordinary potential for making a difference for Canada in our attempts to bring about a safer world." ●—

photos: *Enfants d'ici ou d'ailleurs*, UQAM



EIA students with Mr. Axworthy at UQAM, January 27

Attention all schools, colleges and universities in Canada: **Canada World View** invites you to tell us about your projects related to human security and foreign policy. We believe in the importance of human security education in the classrooms of the country. We will select the most interesting projects and devote a page to your achievements. Contact us by writing to: Managing Editor, **Canada World View**, Communications Services Division (BCS), Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, 125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2.

Norman Robertson

The quiet giant of Canadian diplomacy



Ambassador Robertson with U.S. President Eisenhower in Washington, 1957

The date was January 28, 1941. Shortly after noon in the offices of the Department of External Affairs, Under-Secretary of State O.D. Skelton suffered a heart attack and died. At this crucial moment in its history, Canada had lost one of its greatest architects of foreign policy, and Prime Minister Mackenzie King had lost his closest confidante.

One of the greatest servants this country has ever had.

—Pierre Elliot Trudeau

The news reached King by 3:00 P.M. By 4:30, he had named Skelton's successor: 37-year-old Norman A. Robertson. A tall Vancouver-born diplomat with a strong track record in trade and economic issues, the new Under-Secretary had previously worked closely with King.

The ascent of one so young to the summit of an important government department would be an unusual event even today. Sixty years ago it was extraordinary.

But then, so was Norman Robertson. He had a prodigious intellect that gave him an early head start on his peers. He was a University of British Columbia freshman at 15, a Rhodes Scholar at 18, a Brookings Institution graduate at 23 and a third secretary in the Department of External Affairs at 24. In the late 1930s, he was the senior departmental representative in critical trade negotiations with Britain and the United States. Thus in 1941, although he was younger than other plausible candidates to succeed Skelton (including Lester B. Pearson), he was on virtually equal footing with them in seniority.

As head of External Affairs from 1941 to 1946, Robertson helped steer Canadian foreign policy in new directions while managing the massive wartime expansion of the Department. Under his leadership, Canadian diplomats asserted a greater role for Canada in directing the war effort and shaping the postwar peace. Robertson was the senior Canadian official at the 1945 San Francisco Conference, where the United Nations was founded.

In matters of personal style, Robertson was cheerfully unorthodox. Casual in dress and deportment (he wrote once of his distaste for "piped vests and white spats" and the "select silk hat brigade"), Robertson was nevertheless a consummate public servant, tactful, considerate to colleagues and a masterful consensus builder. While he would argue down to the wire against policy proposals with which he disagreed,

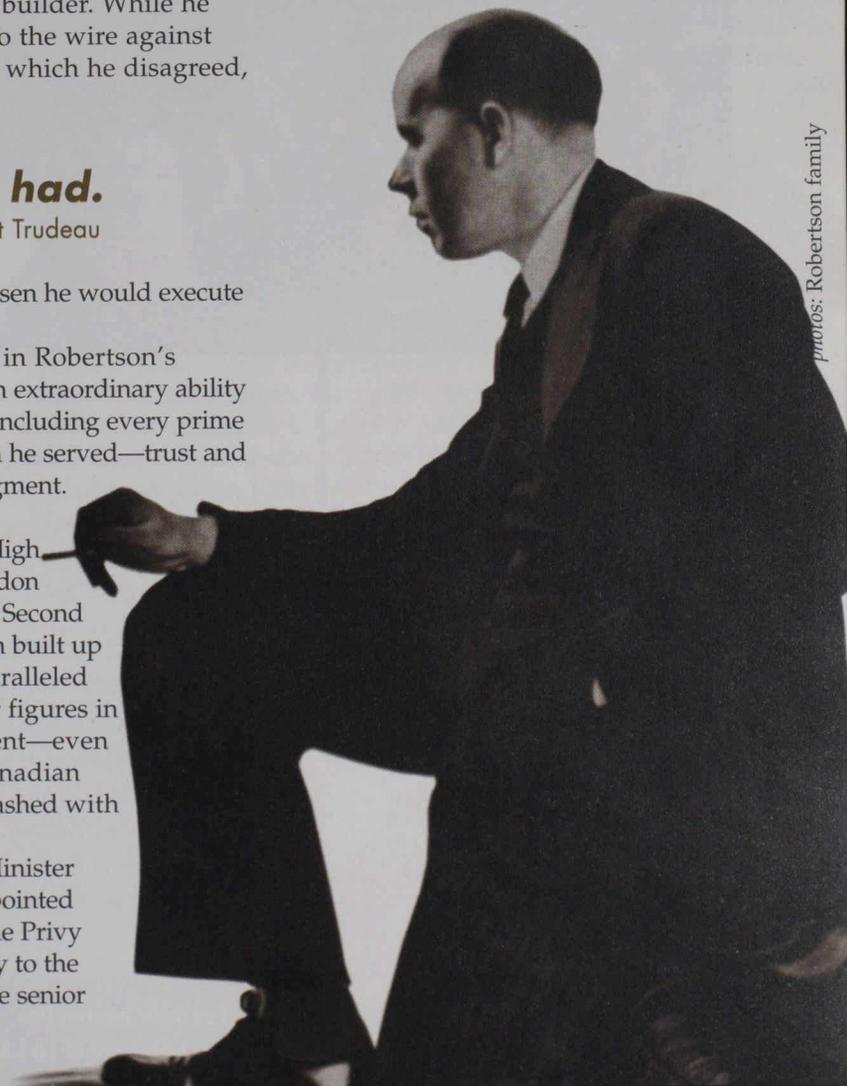
once a policy was chosen he would execute it to the letter.

The other factor in Robertson's meteoric climb was an extraordinary ability to inspire in others—including every prime minister under whom he served—trust and confidence in his judgment.

This extended to foreign contacts. As High Commissioner to London immediately after the Second World War, Robertson built up relationships of unparalleled closeness with senior figures in the British government—even while upholding Canadian interests that often clashed with those of his hosts.

In 1949, Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent appointed Robertson Clerk of the Privy Council and Secretary to the Cabinet—in effect, the senior

official in the Public Service. In 1952 Robertson returned to London, where he served as High Commissioner for nearly five more years. After a brief posting to Washington as Canada's Ambassador to the United States, he came back to Ottawa for an unprecedented second term as Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs. That tenure coincided with the turbulent and divisive period of the Diefenbaker government. Through it all, Robertson steered a calm and careful course, until ill health forced him to resign. Up to his death in 1968, he was consulted frequently on key questions related to Canada's international affairs. ●



photos: Robertson family

Norman Robertson at the peak of his influence during the Second World War

Foreign Policy and Youth

Keeping connected



"Here, they are giving us a say—youth, academics, who aren't part of the government. This way we have our own voice, we have our say in things and that's important."

The speaker is Marie-Joëlle Dulude, one of many young participants in the 1999 National Forum on Canada's International Relations, organized by the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development (CCFPD). Among others attending the Forum were Alison Hartley from Douglas College in New Westminster, British Columbia; Youth Vice-President Brent Nyznyk of the Winnipeg UN Association; and Native Student Union spokes-person Vanessa Nevin. Together, all provided a unique perspective on Canada's foreign policy.

Keeping Canada's youth connected is an important part of CCFPD's mandate. Young Canadians participate in roundtables with Ministers, officials, academics, NGOs and others.



In early May, the second annual CCFPD Graduate Student Seminar brings together 14 young scholars from across the country. With government officials, they will discuss human security and their academic work. Among last year's presentations were: "Canada's Role in Peacekeeping Operations in the 21st Century," by Sunil Ram; "Gender and Human Security," by Holly MacLeod; and "La participation canadienne à la reconstruction de la Bosnie-Herzégovine," by Jade Duchesneau Bernier. Students also participate in the Academic Roundtable immediately following the Seminar.

In 1999, another major event for young Canadians was the Francophonie Summit Youth Consultations. Six meetings across the country drew more than 300 participants in the first half of the year. Their views and recommendations were presented at the Moncton Summit of La Francophonie last September. Says Suzanne Hébert of Bouctouche, New Brunswick, "It went very well. We young people had a chance to express ourselves to representatives of the Department, who listened attentively to what we had to say. Again, many thanks! It was super!" ●—



Canadian Centre
For Foreign Policy
Development

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy has announced the National Forum 2000 for Youth on War-Affected Children. It will bring together Canadian youth through Internet projects, at community meetings and in Winnipeg in September, at the same time as the meeting of the International Conference on War-Affected Children. "Canada's youth have a key role to play in our foreign policy and in building human security in the world," says Mr. Axworthy. "Young Canadians can make a difference for war-affected children here at home and abroad. I look forward to their ideas and help."

For more information, visit the CCFPD Web site (www.cfp-pec.gc.ca), or contact the Centre by telephone at (613) 944-4150/-0391, by fax at (613) 944-0867 or by letter at:
Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development
125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2

NATIONS

IN • THE • NEWS

On the Record

Excerpts from a speech by Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy accepting the *McGill International Review Award of Distinction*, at the 10th annual meeting of the McGill Model United Nations Assembly, McGill University, Montréal, January 27, 2000

This honour is all the more special given the important occasion at which it is given. A decade ago, the McGill Model UN Assembly was established. Today, it is the largest gathering of its kind in North America.

I am constantly impressed by the unbridled enthusiasm with which young Canadians are embracing the brave new world. The past decade [has seen] dramatic change internationally. Fundamental to this change is the evolving nature of world peace and security. We need to pay attention to the human dimension in global affairs.

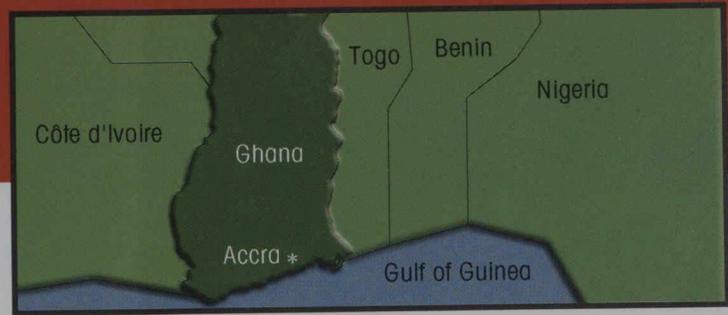
A strong and relevant United Nations is indispensable to this goal. That is why Canada sought election to the Security Council, the only global body with a mandate for maintaining peace and security. Yet [the Council] has not always risen to the challenges posed by new security threats. It has sometimes shrunk from its obligations—making itself less rather than more relevant.

The protection of civilians must figure at the top of Security Council concerns. To this end, we initiated a debate to raise awareness and shape action. The result was a comprehensive report by the Secretary-General, presented this past September. Our initiative and the Secretary-General's report have put the human dimension of peace and security squarely on the Council agenda. Canada now chairs a process aimed at locking in key recommendations.

During our first year on the Council, Canada has made a difference. As a result of Canada's initiatives, the Council is taking concrete action to protect civilians in conflict, and it now addresses issues that pose a direct threat to people—such as war-affected children, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, or the unprecedented Council meeting last month on the AIDS epidemic, unimaginable even a year ago. Also, the voice of human suffering—through the first-ever appearance by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross—is being heard, and listened to, at the Council table.

This is making the Council more relevant to people. This is real progress. ●—

For the full text of the speech, visit the Department's Web site at www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca and click on "News Releases" and then "Statements," or call the Media Relations Office at (613) 995-1874. Also visit the "Canada on the UN Security Council" site, accessible from the DFAIT home page.



Ghana—a key partner in Africa

The West African nation of Ghana has a proud history. In 1957 it was the first European colony in sub-Saharan Africa to achieve independence, and in following years it provided inspiration to many other countries as the decolonization process advanced around the world.

Ghana is one of Canada's key partners in Africa. Our relations reflect four decades of personal and official contacts that began through bilateral aid, the United Nations and the Commonwealth. In recent years ties have broadened to include trade and investment, and a Canadian Trade Commissioner has been stationed in Accra since September 1997.

Ghana and Canada have a long-standing relationship in development co-operation. At present, the Government of Ghana's primary objective is to reduce poverty and significantly raise the living standards of Ghanaians. To support this objective, the Canadian International Development Agency's assistance program to Ghana has focussed on rural development, water supply to rural areas, human resource development, education and health, balance of payments support, and energy and natural resources.

Under the leadership of President Jerry Rawlings, Ghana has undergone a peaceful transition from military rule to participatory democratic government. The new 1992 constitution created an environment for the formation of political parties, many of which are actively preparing to contest presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled for this coming December.

Like Canada, Ghana is a proponent of peacekeeping, and is the fourth-largest contributor of personnel to UN peacekeeping missions worldwide. Ghanaian armed forces personnel have been deployed as peacekeepers on missions in Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Lebanon and elsewhere. Approximately 1000 Ghanaian soldiers are currently serving in the UN Mission in Sierra Leone.

Ghana-Canada partnerships continue to grow in a number of areas. Foreign Affairs Minister Axworthy will attend the West African Conference on War-Affected Children, to be held in Accra on April 27 and 28. Jointly hosted by Canada and Ghana, the Conference will aim to launch a regional initiative for addressing the multiple crises of children in conflict.

In the years ahead, there is no doubt that Canada's relationship with Ghana will become closer, particularly in the area of joint human security issues on the African continent. ●—

Culture

Projecting Canadian Culture Abroad in 2000

Culture, it's been said, is the face of Canada abroad. This has long been recognized by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. In 1966 DFAIT created a Cultural Affairs Division to formulate, co-ordinate and execute Canada's cultural policy. Long before that, Canadian diplomats in embassies abroad often took the initiative of organizing cultural events to showcase the best of Canada's rich cultural diversity. In 1995, the government went a step further: as one of the "pillars" of our foreign policy, it named the promotion and projection of Canadian culture and values abroad. In the year 2000, the tradition of showcasing Canadian excellence abroad continues. And in offering its best, Canada is gaining worldwide renown.

- Led by Music Director Jukka-Pekka Saraste, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra delighted music critics and audiences alike on its European tour this winter.

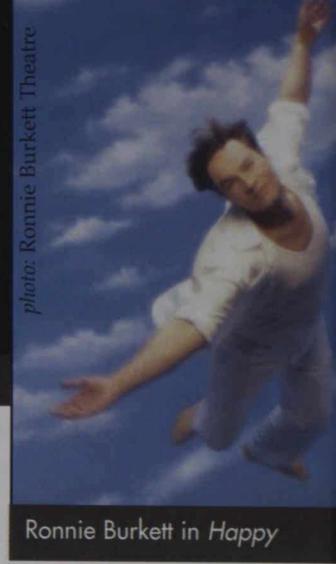
- The Cirque Éloize—organized along the lines of the Cirque du Soleil—received rave reviews at the renowned Edinburgh Festival last August. Booked to tour the United States from January to May, the troupe agreed to make time in April to perform at the Bogotá Festival in Colombia. In the summer and fall, Cirque Éloize will tour Europe.
- From September to December, the Royal British Columbia Museum (RBCM) will present the art of Nuu-chah-nulth masks in Denver, Colorado. The masks are the work of 16 artists, including the world-famous Art Thompson. They vividly represent the relationship between the Nuu-chah-nulth Aboriginal people (formerly known as the Nootka) and the spectacular natural panorama of their ancestral home on Canada's West Coast.

Highlighting the experimental side of the arts in Canada will be *Magnetic North*—a major retrospective exhibit being organized by Video Pool of Winnipeg and presented in collaboration with the Walker Art Center of Minneapolis, Minnesota. The exhibit will showcase the recent explosion of experimental videos by Canadians, and will give a historical perspective of experimental video art from the 1970s and 1980s. From Minneapolis, the exhibit will move on to major institutions in the United States, Europe and Canada, touring until December 2001.



Nuu-chah-nulth mask

photo: RBCM collection



Ronnie Burkett in *Happy*

photo: Ronnie Burkett Theatre

Other highlights of the 2000 schedule:

- From June 18 to October 29, Canada will participate in the seventh Venice Biennale of Architecture. DFAIT and the Canada Council for the Arts have commissioned Phyllis Lambert and the Canadian Centre for Architecture to organize Canada's representation at the Biennale. The theme will be "The City: Less Aesthetics, More Ethics."
- Canada's literary talent takes the spotlight at the 10th Prague Writers' Festival in April. Established by Czech President Václav Havel after the fall of the communist regime, the Festival always draws massive media coverage. For the first time ever, the Festival is welcoming Canadian writers, including Margaret Atwood, Gérald LeBlanc, Antonine Maillet, Ann Michaels and Michael Ondaatje.
- After drawing crowds in Mexico since September 1999, an exhibit of paintings by members of Canada's famed Group of Seven will tour Scandinavia in May.
- The Ronnie Burkett Theatre of Marionettes will tour Denmark and Germany this summer, presenting the award-winning *Tinka's New Dress* and the première of a new creation, *Happy*. ●—



photo: Cirque Éloize

For more information about DFAIT programs that promote Canadian art and culture abroad, visit the Department's Web site (www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca) or contact Louis Hamel, Director, Arts and Cultural Industries Promotion Division (ACA), Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, 125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2, tel. (613) 992-9948.

News BRIEFS

CANADA SIGNS INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM CONVENTION

On February 10, at the United Nations in New York, Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy signed the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. The Convention will help prevent signatory states' territories from being used as bases for terrorist fund-raising activities. It also establishes a framework for extraditing or prosecuting those who raise or provide funds for terrorists.

Canada chaired the negotiating committee for the Convention, which will complement existing counter-terrorist conventions. The aim is to curb terrorist acts by restricting terrorists' sources of funding, through the creation of new offences under international law.

Adopted unanimously by the UN General Assembly on December 9, 1999, the Convention will come into force after ratification by 22 states.

FLOODS IN MOZAMBIQUE: CANADA TO THE RESCUE

Through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Department of National Defence (DND), Canada has provided more than \$11.6 million in emergency assistance for flood victims in Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Botswana and Swaziland.

In February, after weeks of torrential rain and a cyclone, the worst flooding in 50 years left 1 million people homeless in these countries.

Canada channelled its help through the World Food Programme, UNICEF, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the World Health Organization, Canadian NGOs such as Oxfam Canada and the Canadian Lutheran World Relief, and other agencies. The Canadian contribution was used to provide food, blankets, medicine, shelter, clean water, transportation for the victims and support for reconstruction.

Another urgent need has been to protect people from the dangers caused

by landmines displaced in the flooding. Canada contributed \$500 000 to help the UN Mine Action Service assess the situation and take appropriate measures. Mozambique is one of the world's most heavily mined countries, with between 1 and 2 million mines on its territory.

CANADA AND RUSSIA TO INCREASE CO-OPERATION IN THE NORTH

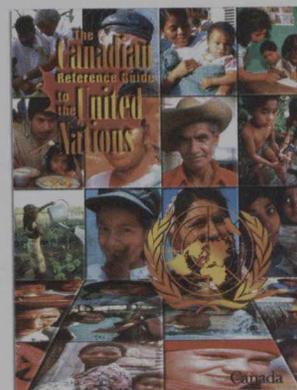
Canada and Russia have extended for another three years their co-operation agreement on Aboriginal and northern development. The two countries will enhance northern co-operation and re-invigorate their political dialogue on Arctic and Aboriginal affairs.

Ottawa and Moscow have also approved a work plan of new activities designed to promote northern sustainable development and take advantage of emerging socio-economic opportunities in the North.

"The development of the northern dimension of our bilateral relations with Russia continues to be a priority," said Mr. Axworthy at the first meeting of the Working Group on the Arctic and the North.

CANADIAN STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Alongside 2400 students from all over the world, 225 Canadian students from 13 colleges and universities across the country will take part in the National Model United Nations conference, to be held in New York from April 18 to 22. The conference originated in 1923 as a simulation of the League of Nations. It is the largest program of its kind in the world, and one of the most prestigious. The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade is offering logistical and financial support to participating Canadian educational institutions. Each institution will represent a different country. For example, the delegation from the Université de Montréal will represent France, while students from the Nunavut Arctic College will represent Barbados.



CANADIAN REFERENCE GUIDE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade recently published an updated version of the *Canadian Reference Guide to the United Nations*. More than 80 pages in length, the Guide outlines Canada's unique contribution to the United Nations and to UN programs, specialized agencies and institutions. It also gives contact and Web site information.

At the launch, Minister Axworthy said, "The Guide is a practical reference tool aimed at students, teachers, the general public and news media—anyone who is interested in learning more about the United Nations."

For print copies of the Guide, telephone **1-800-267-8376** or **(613) 944-4000**, fax **(613) 996-9709**, or write to Enquiries Service (SXCI), Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, 125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2.

You can also consult the Guide on the Internet at DFAIT's educational Web site, "Canadians in the World" (www.canschool.org). The site features a diverse menu of topics about Canada's international relations, humanitarian efforts, culture, science, sports and business.

• cont'd on page 16

HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

For the Record 1999: The UN Human Rights System is the latest edition of an annual report by the Canadian NGO Human Rights Internet (HRI). It is scheduled to appear in spring, in print and CD-ROM as well as on HRI's Web site (www.hri.ca/fortherecord.shtml).

Produced in partnership with DFAIT, the report reviews 1999 human rights developments by theme and by country. It is the most comprehensive document on the global human rights situation in the past year.

For print or CD-ROM copies, telephone (613) 789-7407, fax (613) 789-7414, e-mail paul@hri.ca, or write to Human Rights Internet, 8 York Street, Suite 302, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 5S6. ●

Readers' Corner

During March, *Canada World View* held focus groups across the country. Among other things, you told us you would like to see a column where you could express your comments, suggestions, criticisms and ideas about Canada's foreign policy and about this magazine. We're happy to do as you asked and to bring you this column, **your** column. Please send your letters to:

Readers' Corner, *Canada World View*
Communications Services Division (BCS)
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2

You can also e-mail us at:
magazine@dfait-maeci.gc.ca

Readers' Corner



Where Canada meets the world



Please come and visit the Lester B. Pearson Building, home of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, at 125 Sussex Drive in Ottawa, Ontario. Free guided tours are available from April 3 to November 10.

For more information or to book a tour, telephone (613) 992-6164 or e-mail Maricarmen Charbonneau:

maricarmen.charbonneau@dfait-maeci.gc.ca

DID YOU KNOW THAT ...

Canada has been elected six times to a non-permanent seat on the **UN Security Council**. Canada served two-year terms in 1948-49, 1958-59, 1967-68, 1977-78 and 1989-90. It is currently serving on the Council until December 31, 2000.

More than **50 Canadian Missions** abroad now have their own **Web sites**, which can put you in touch with foreign governments, international organizations, businesses, educational resources, and other sources of information and contacts. They can also give valuable **assistance** as you prepare for your next trip to a foreign destination. To access the sites, go to the Department's Web site (www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca), and click on "The World" and then on "Embassies and Missions".

Under a 1952 resolution of the General Assembly, a permanent **United Nations Disarmament Commission** was established in Geneva with six **permanent** members: **Canada**, China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States.

A preoccupation with international peace is not new to Canadian youth. At the **World Youth Congress in Geneva in August 1936**, the Canadian delegation was led by **Paul Martin Sr.**, who was then Member of Parliament for Essex East and was later to become Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Accompanying him were MPs from all parties plus representatives of church groups, YMCAs and other interested bodies. The World Youth Congress was held under the auspices of the Federation of League of Nations Societies. It provided an opportunity for young people from all over the world to demonstrate their **opposition to war**.

In our NEXT ISSUE

Issue 8 • Summer 2000

Planned for late May, our next issue will focus on the Americas, particularly the OAS General Assembly in Windsor from June 4 to 6, plus Canada's relations with our hemispheric neighbours.

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DISPONIBLE EN FRANÇAIS.

