

World View

CANADA

The International Criminal Court

Agreement bears strong Canadian imprint

photo: Laurie Wiseberg

It is a tradition that goes back to the founding of the United Nations (UN) in 1945 and to the precedent-setting Suez Peacekeeping mission, which won a Nobel Peace Prize for Lester B. Pearson in 1957. For more than half a century, Canada has played a leading role in promoting peace and the rule of law in international affairs.

July 18, 1998, marked a major new entry in this peacemaking record with the signing by Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy of the Statute establishing the framework for the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The Court will be the first permanent international tribunal empowered to prosecute individuals accused of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity and, eventually, crimes of aggression.

Hammered out in five tough and often heated weeks of negotiation, the ICC Statute represents a victory for a group of "like-minded states", led by Canada, and united by general agreement on the need for an international court.

The final vote on the Statute was 120 to 7 in favour of adoption with 21 abstentions.

Mr. Axworthy, who addressed the Plenary Session and participated in the

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The ICC Statute recognizes that women and children are particularly vulnerable in times of war. Rape, sexual slavery and sexual violence are recognized as war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Canada

Conference to bolster support for the ICC's creation, commented, "It was encouraging to see so many countries supporting the creation of an institution of such fundamental importance to peace, human rights and security."

Canada has played a leading role in the development of the ICC, chairing the group of like-minded states at a preparatory commission that worked over a two-year period on the framework legislation. Canada also provided financial assistance to enable some of the least-developed countries to take part in both the preparatory meetings and the final, five-week diplomatic conference in Rome. The Committee of the Whole for the Conference, which developed the final text, was chaired by Philippe Kirsch, Legal Advisor to the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

The Committee had a daunting task on its hands. The original draft treaty was a bulky, 173-page document containing 116 articles and 1300 "square brackets" — difficult issues set aside for resolution later. As Chairman, one of Mr. Kirsch's first moves, after instituting night sessions, was to have drafting groups abandon the square bracket approach and deal directly with outstanding issues. After four weeks of work, the Committee presented a finished document, minus brackets, boiled down to a relatively compact 83 pages with 128 articles.

The ICC breaks new ground. It will deal with international crimes on an individual rather than a state basis, and its jurisdiction extends to crimes committed in internal conflicts. Presided over by 18 judges from 18 countries, the ICC will also have automatic jurisdiction over these

crimes, meaning that states that ratify the Statute automatically accept its jurisdiction and the Court will not have to seek case-by-case consent to act. Another new feature is the establishment of an Independent Prosecutor, elected through secret ballot by states that have ratified the Statute.

The Statute allows for cases to come before the Court via several routes. Countries that have ratified the Statute can trigger action, as can the UN Security Council and the Independent Prosecutor.

The ICC will come into existence as soon as 60 states ratify the Statute. Canada has pledged to ratify as soon as possible and is urging other countries to do the same.

Foreign Affairs Minister Axworthy signs the "Final Act" or Statute creating the ICC on July 18, 1998, in Rome. Beside him is Philippe Kirsch, Legal Advisor to the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, and Chairman of the Committee of the Whole for the Conference.



photo: Canapress/Walter Venuti

Interview with

Born in Namur, Belgium, in 1947, Philippe Kirsch moved with his family to Canada at age 14 and joined the Department of External Affairs in 1972 after receiving a Master of Law degree from the Université de Montréal. Since then, Mr. Kirsch has served as Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations and as Ambassador and Agent for Canada to the International Court of Justice.

Philippe Kirsch's career has been principally with multilateral organizations in work related to international law and world security. Assignments have included Chairmanship of the following Committees: the influential Sixth (Legal) Committee of the UN; the UN Committee for the Suppression of Nuclear Terrorism; the UN Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings; and the Drafting Committee of the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent in 1995.

In June 1998, Mr. Kirsch was elected Chairman of the Committee of the Whole for the Conference on the International Criminal Court; this Committee negotiated the final text for the ICC Statute.

Canada World View interviewed Mr. Kirsch in Ottawa about Canada's role and interests in the creation of the International Criminal Court.

Philippe Kirsch

LEGAL ADVISOR TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

The following are excerpts from the discussion:

Canada World View

To what extent does the Statute signed in Rome reflect the Canadian vision of an International Criminal Court?

Philippe Kirsch

There's a significant Canadian imprint. In the draft that the Conference adopted are institutional characteristics that Canada wanted and pushed for very hard in the company of other countries in the group of like-minded states. For example:

- the Court's automatic jurisdiction over crimes;
- jurisdiction over internal armed conflicts; as we know, these conflicts have been the most common source of bloodshed and atrocities in recent times;
- the incorporation of strong provisions related to sexual crimes and crimes against children;
- the element of complementarity — the fact that the Court will take action only when national legal systems are unable or unwilling to genuinely investigate or prosecute. I should point out that this provides a great deal of protection to states with judicial systems that function effectively. The Court would not pre-empt action in cases involving the citizens of these states because the countries in question would be able to take the necessary action;
- the fact that the jurisdiction of the Court can be triggered by an Independent Prosecutor, as well as by states that have ratified the Statute and by the Security Council.

Canada World View

How will the Court relate to the Security Council?

Philippe Kirsch

It will be a constructive relationship. The Council may refer situations to the Court and require co-operation from all UN member states. In exceptional circumstances, the Council may request a 12-month deferral of Court proceedings while measures are under way to promote international peace and security.

Canada World View

How will Canadians benefit from the creation of the ICC?

Philippe Kirsch

In many ways — I can think of two in particular. Canada is one of the world's leading contributors to peacemaking and humanitarian missions. The presence of the Court will contribute to the effectiveness of these missions and, I think, reduce risks to peacekeeping personnel. It's been suggested, for example, that one reason the United States sustained no casualties in the mission to implement the Dayton Accords [which brought peace to war-torn former Yugoslavia] was that people who were responsible for committing atrocities were already indicted and had consequently lost their authority to influence events.

More fundamentally, there are the benefits Canadians will share with all other countries. By reaffirming the rule of law, the Court will be a stabilizing factor in international relations. It should also foster reconciliation in the aftermath of conflicts by isolating and stigmatizing war criminals.



photo: Canapress/Tom Hanson

Canada World View
Will the Court continue to evolve?

Philippe Kirsch

Most definitely. We need to arrive at a definition of aggression, for example, and to develop a number of practical rules for the operation of the Court. And we expect that, as nations that voted against the Court see it in operation, they will come to realize that it is a legal rather than a political institution, and come around to support it.

Is it a perfect court? Not yet — but it is a strong court. The UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, has called it "a gift of hope to future generations and a giant step forward in the march toward universal human rights and the rule of law."

Human Rights Internet (HRI) is a world leader in the exchange of information within the international human rights community. The organization acted as the secretariat for the Vienna Plus Five Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) International Forum held in Ottawa, June 22 to 24, 1998.

Launched in the United States in 1976, HRI has been based in Ottawa since 1990. Executive Director and co-founder, Canadian Laurie Wiseberg, looks back on the organization's beginnings. "In the late

"In the early 1970s, Harry and I did our first study of an international interest group — Amnesty International — to see whether and under what circumstances it was effective."

"For myself, my concern about the role of NGOs emerged from my PhD research on the politics of the international relief operations in Biafra during the Nigerian civil war."

"We started our first research in Los Angeles, where I was doing my PhD and Harry was a professor of Political Science. Human Rights Internet was formally

Now HRI communicates by phone, fax, mail and the information highway with more than 5000 organizations and individuals working for the advancement of human rights.

HRI was originally known as Internet: The International Human Rights Documentation Network, and had nothing to do with the World Wide Web of today's Internet. When later HRI wanted to bring its operations into cyberspace, it was able to provide human rights actors with a "network within the Net".

HRI's primary role is to serve the information needs of

Human Rights Internet

1960s, my late husband, Harry Scoble, had a Brazilian student, Bolivar, who was thrown into prison by the military when he went home to São Paulo to do his PhD research. That's when Harry discovered Amnesty International and worked with the organization to get him out of prison. Bolivar is now a key human rights advisor to the current Brazilian president."

HRI's primary role is to serve the information needs of international scholars, human rights activists, asylum lawyers and organizations via its extensive documentation centre and databases.

launched when we were both teaching at the University of Illinois in Chicago."

"Then in 1978, we decided that if we were to do this properly, we had to be based in an information centre, which in the United States would be Washington or New York. Since the Carter administration had just come into office, making human rights part of their agenda, we moved to Washington in 1978. We operated out of our house for the first five years."

"In 1985, Harvard Law School invited us to move to Boston. And in 1990, shortly after the death of my husband, I decided to take HRI home to Canada."

international scholars, human rights activists, asylum lawyers and organizations via its extensive documentation centre and databases. These include information on thousands of human rights organizations, bibliographic abstracts, funding bodies, awards, education programs and children's rights.

HRI's publishing program includes quarterly and annual publications, human rights directories and special publications. Prominent is *The Human Rights Tribune*, a quarterly magazine of information and analysis aimed at the public and the human rights community.

HRI funds its activities through research projects; the HRI Youth Internship Program; consulting for the United Nations; and grants from foundations.

Visit the HRI Web site at: www.hri.ca



**For the Record 1997:
The UN Human Rights System
Human Rights Internet, 1998**

A major new report by Human Rights Internet is now available in hard copy and on CD-ROM. This year's edition is the first of what will be an annual publication. Produced in partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, this report reviews human rights developments in 1997 thematically and on a country-by-country basis.

For every country or territory included (over 190), **For the Record** reviews all relevant UN documentation, including reports presented to treaty bodies, with summaries of the concluding observations by the experts; all references made in the reports by the Special Rapporteurs, Special Representatives or Working Groups of the UN Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) and the Sub-Commission; and all relevant resolutions and decisions of the UNCHR and the Sub-Commission, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the UN General Assembly, and the UN Security Council.

For the Record is available in 6 spiral-bound volumes in English and French. The CD-ROM contains the report in both languages and has hyperlinks to all the original UN documents in English.

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photo: Human Rights Internet



Laurie Wiseberg
Executive Director, Human Rights Internet

photo: John Rodsted

photo: Human Rights Internet

MAKWA INTERNATIONAL:

An Inter-Indigenous Venture Preparing for Flight

Blaine Favel, Counsellor on International Indigenous Issues for the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, has made it his mission to help inter-Indigenous projects get off the ground and gain access to the international market. Makwa International's project to manage Caribbean pine forests in the Atlantic region of Nicaragua is the kind of business development project that Mr. Favel is looking at.

The company is a joint venture created by the Meadow Lake Tribal Council (MLTC) of Saskatchewan and the Corporación Indígena para el Desarrollo Económico (CIDE s.a.) of Nicaragua.

The partnership is based on the belief that alliances between Indigenous peoples are necessary for the survival of future generations. In order to survive, First Nations peoples must compete and in order to

compete, they have to enter the international market. Countries like Nicaragua, emerging from civil war, are in particular need of projects that generate economic and social development that in turn strengthen reconciliation and peacebuilding.

The forestry initiative is at an advanced planning stage and has received support from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Canadian International Development Agency, Industry Canada, and the Inter-American Development Bank, among others. Makwa's initial goal is to establish a small sawmill that would later include a veneer plant. Such investments would lead to the manufacture of value-added items using specialty woods like mahogany and teak, as long as they respect environmental goals.

Nicaragua will receive a direct investment of C\$15 million, money that will create some 150 jobs, skills training and the technology transfer necessary for sustainable resource management. Instituting an intensive reforestation program is expected to increase forest yields to approximately 450 000 cubic metres in 20 years.

Members of the MLTC spent months travelling — often by canoe or riverboat — from community to community in the Miskito region of Nicaragua in order to understand the local people and develop a common vision for development that addresses reinvestment in the area.

Both Makwa partners are committed to finding administrative and financial solutions to implement the project. Already one major Makwa accomplishment has been to clear the way for future inter-Indigenous ventures.

photo: MLTC



The goal of the Meadow Lake Tribal Council (MLTC) is to build stable economic and social development programs.

photo: MLTC



Training Indigenous personnel in administrative, technical, financial and leadership roles will be planned, organized and implemented around specific projects according to community priorities.

Makwa is the name of a bird that migrates from Central America to Canada. It carries a symbolic meaning for the company name as **Makwa** also means “bird of good fortune”.

CITIZEN OF THE WORLD

John Peters Humphrey

John Humphrey and Eleanor Roosevelt.



photo: Estate of John P. Humphrey

Nearly 50 years have passed since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations. The Declaration was one of the first major achievements of the United Nations, and remains a powerful instrument that continues to exert an enormous effect on people's lives all over the world. Hailed by Eleanor Roosevelt as the Magna Carta of mankind, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was drafted by Canadian John Peters Humphrey.

“Mr. Humphrey was a great Canadian who worked tirelessly to promote and protect freedoms, which many of us take for granted,” said John Crompton, Director and CEO of the National Arts Centre (NAC), in Ottawa, during the opening of a 1998 Festival Canada exhibition marking the life and times of this extraordinary Canadian. “He was a man whose ideas and writings changed the world.”

Born in Hampton, New Brunswick, in 1905, John Humphrey faced personal tragedy early, losing his arm in an accident at age six, and both his parents by age 11. He overcame these obstacles and achieved success first as a student and then as a professor of law at McGill University in Montreal. His values were further shaped by the critical events of his generation — the Great Depression and World War II.

In 1946, Mr. Humphrey was appointed Director of the United Nations Division of Human Rights. In 1947, he wrote the first draft of the Declaration, a 400-page document that served as the basic working paper for an eight-member drafting committee. It was the first time that human rights and fundamental freedoms had been set forth in such detail. On December 10, 1948, after much debate, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights —

photo: Eliza Massey

Courtesy of Dr. Margaret Kunstler Humphrey

“a vision of how the world should be” — was unanimously adopted by the UN General Assembly.

Mr. Humphrey, academic, humanitarian and international public servant, considered himself both a Canadian nationalist and a citizen of the world, and felt that these two beliefs were not incompatible. He celebrated the human spirit and worked throughout his life to share the message of human rights.

He believed that “there is a fundamental connection between human rights and peace. We will have peace on earth when everyone's rights are respected.”

After his retirement from the United Nations, John Humphrey became:

- a founding member and the first president of the National Section of Amnesty International in Canada, in 1973;
- one of the founders of the Canadian Human Rights Foundation;
- Vice-President of the International Commission of Jurists;
- a member of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in Canada, in 1970;
- a member of the Board of Directors of the International League of the Rights of Man;
- President of the World Conference on Religion and Peace/Canada;
- a member of the Conseil d'administration, Société québécoise de droit international; and
- an Honorary Member of the War Amputees of Canada.

We gratefully acknowledge the help of Gerry Grace, Archivist and Co-ordinator of Exhibits at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, in preparing this article.

JOHN PETERS HUMPHREY died in 1995.

His legacy to the world, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, still continues to inspire individuals and nations.

Makwa

CANADA'S COMMITMENT TO Human Rights

For half a century, Canada and Canadians have played a leading role in enshrining respect for human rights in international law.

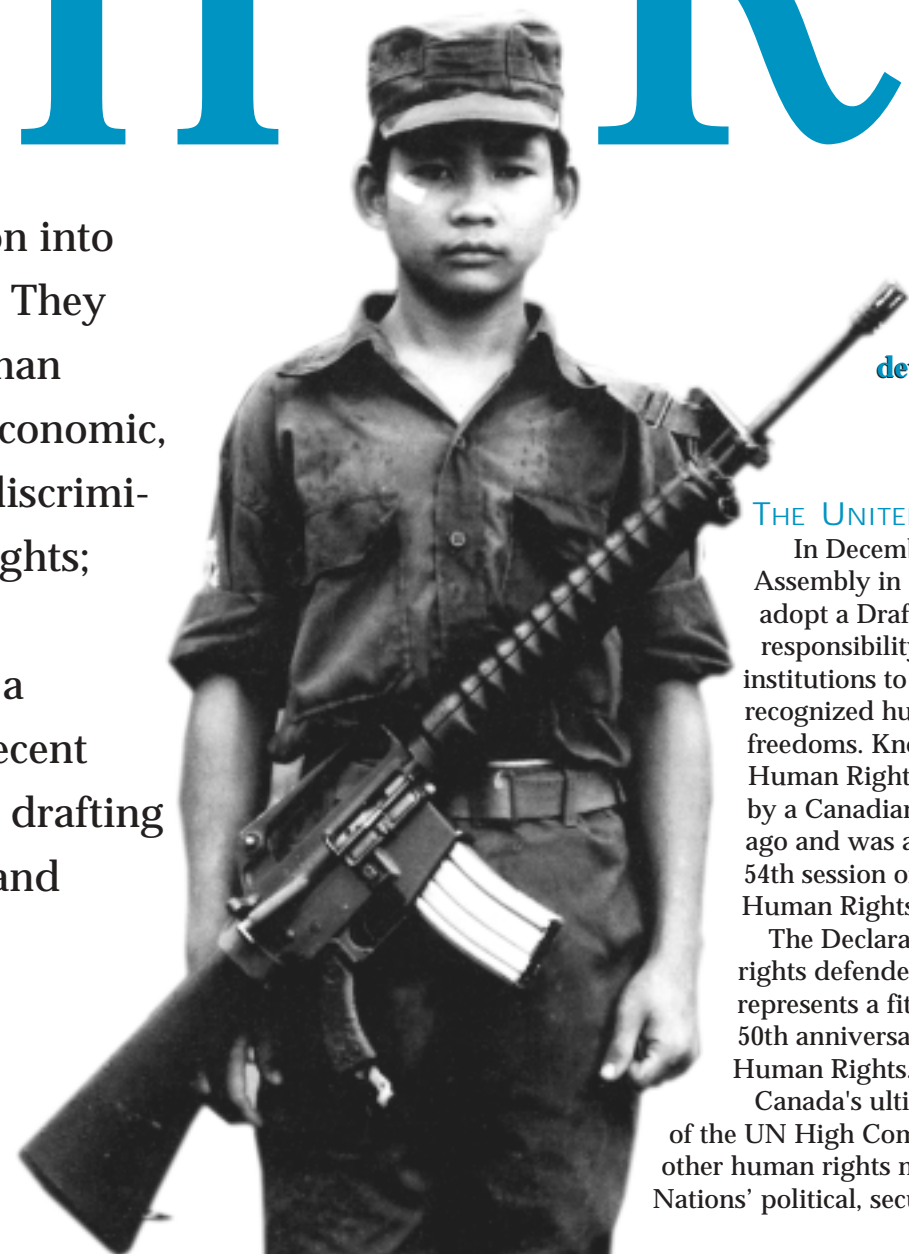
The Canadian connection originates with the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by John Peters Humphrey in 1947 (see page 7).

It has continued over subsequent years with Canada's participation in the writing of core international human rights treaties. These agreements translate the broad concepts

of the Universal Declaration into detailed treaty obligations. They focus on six aspects of human rights: civil and political; economic, social and cultural; racial discrimination; torture; women's rights; and children's rights.

Canada has also played a leading role in two more recent milestones of progress: the drafting of the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action at the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights, and the establishment of the position of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

photo: Courtesy of UNICEF/4761/Chiasson



Respect for human rights is essential to the development of stable, democratic and prosperous societies at peace with one another. Canada is committed to using its economic, trading and development assistance relationships to promote respect for human rights. Multilateral organizations, such as the United Nations, are crucial to providing effective channels for influencing governments.

THE UNITED NATIONS

In December 1998, the UN General Assembly in New York is expected to adopt a Draft Declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and institutions to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms. Known as the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, it was launched by a Canadian-Norwegian initiative 13 years ago and was approved this spring at the 54th session of the UN Commission on Human Rights.

The Declaration states the rights of human rights defenders throughout the world, and represents a fitting achievement to mark the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Canada's ultimate goal is to integrate the work of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and other human rights mechanisms into the United Nations' political, security and developmental work.

At this year's UN Commission on Human Rights, Canada took the lead on more resolutions than any other single country. These resolutions were:

- *Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression;*
- *Integrating the Human Rights of Women throughout the UN System;*
- *Elimination of Violence Against Women;*
- *Working Group on a Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;*
- *Human Rights and Mass Exoduses;*
- *Effective Implementation of International Instruments on Human Rights;*
- *Impunity (this marked the first time that the central question of impunity for violations of human rights was placed on the United Nations agenda).*

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photo: Estate of John P. Humphrey

United Nations poster for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948.

EVENTS

In 1998, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) has participated or will participate in the following events:

MARCH 23
O.D. Skelton Memorial Lecture:
"Reasons to be Cheerful –
Foreign Policy in a
Changed World",
Memorial University,
St. John's, Newfoundland

JUNE 22-24
The Vienna Plus Five
NGO International Forum,
Government Conference Centre,
Ottawa, Ontario

JUNE 22
Minister Axworthy launched
an annual report,
*For the Record 1997: The UN
Human Rights System*,
at the Vienna Plus Five
NGO International Forum,
Ottawa, Ontario

JULY 23-25
Symposium:
"The Artist and Human Rights",
National Arts Centre,
Ottawa, Ontario

SEPTEMBER 10-12
Conference:
"Human Rights and the Internet",
Radisson Hotel, Montreal, Quebec

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PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS BILATERALLY

Canada actively promotes human rights in countries where it believes improvements are needed. In the past two years, Canada has had ongoing dialogue with China, Indonesia and Cuba on human rights issues, and we are co-operating in a number of areas. We are beginning to see the benefits of this continued engagement.

CUBA

- A joint declaration signed with Cuba last year covers a number of economic, political, justice and social issues and includes specific references to human rights.
- We have had an active dialogue with Cuba since the agreement was signed, including specific forums on children's rights and women's rights and discussion of the role of non-governmental organizations. The release of several hundred political prisoners is one sign that Cuba is making some steps toward more openness.

INDONESIA

- Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy's meeting with his Indonesian counterpart last year led to an agreement to co-operate on issues of human rights and good governance. Canada is the only country whose human rights commission has a formal program of co-operation with the Indonesian National Human Rights Commission, a body well established enough to be openly critical of the Indonesian government. Canadian parliamentarians have been to Indonesia to observe conditions.



photo: John Rodsted

CHINA

- When Prime Minister Chrétien met with the Chinese President last year, they agreed to co-host a forum on human rights. That frank discussion took place earlier this year in British Columbia and included observers from several of China's Asian neighbours. Another such forum is to take place in November this year. There are signs that China is responding to ongoing dialogue with Canada and other nations. This year, for example, China signed the UN Convention on Civil and Political Rights, released two prominent dissidents and allowed visits by high profile human rights advocates such as UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson.

CHILD LABOUR

- Canada strongly supports the work of the International Labour Organization to develop a new Convention on eliminating the worst forms of child labour, for adoption in 1999.
- Last year, Minister Axworthy announced the creation of the Child Labour Challenge Fund to support Canadian private sector initiatives aimed at addressing exploitive child labour internationally. Information on project funding is available on the Internet at: www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca (click on Social Issues under the Policy section of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Web page).

CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICT

The exploitation of child soldiers includes the many boys and girls who serve in armies and rebel groups as cooks, porters, messengers, spies, labourers and sexual slaves.

- In April 1998, following meetings with UN Special Representative for Children in Armed Conflict Olara Otunnu, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and the Canadian International Development Agency announced aid for four projects worth \$650 000 to eliminate the use of child soldiers. For example, projects in northern Uganda and Liberia are aimed at stopping the abduction of children by rebel soldiers, supporting the advocacy work for the release of these children, and facilitating the tracing and resettlement of the ones who manage to escape captivity.



photo: John Rodsted

NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 23-27
Official Visit to Canada of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, former President of Ireland, Mary Robinson. Mary Robinson will participate in activities across Canada celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Her visit will highlight Canada's commitment to the UN human rights program and underscore the importance we attach to the central message of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights — all human rights for all.

NOVEMBER 26-29
International Conference: "Universal Rights and Human Values — A Blueprint for Peace, Justice and Freedom", Sheraton Grande Hotel, Edmonton, Alberta. Sponsored by the Western Chapter of the Canadian Human Rights Foundation and supported by DFAIT, the conference features UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson as a keynote speaker. For information call (403) 453-2638. E-mail: hrc@tnc.com

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

- In March 1998, Canada hosted in Victoria, B.C., "Out from the Shadows", an international summit on sexually exploited youth. It brought together some 55 youths from the Americas who had experienced some form of sexual exploitation. Participants successfully developed a Declaration and Action Plan, which Canada is now promoting at the United Nations and other multilateral organizations.
- As follow-up to the Victoria Summit, and in partnership with Canadian NGOs, Canada is funding projects for sexually exploited youth in Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Bolivia, Peru and Chile. The projects will focus on counselling and rehabilitation, education and training, and reintegration into the workforce and community.
- Amendments to the Canadian Criminal Code now make it possible to prosecute in Canada those Canadians who go abroad to abuse children sexually.



photo: John Rodsted

DECEMBER

DECEMBER 10

Formal Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, United Nations General Assembly, New York. Canada will participate in the ceremony organized by the United Nations.

CANADA'S STRATEGY FOR INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS ISSUES

- Minister Axworthy announced the appointment of Blaine Favel as Counsellor on International Indigenous Issues on January 9, 1998.
- Mr. Favel provides policy advice on Canada's positions regarding Indigenous issues to the United Nations, the Organization of American States and other international organizations. He is also formulating recommendations for strengthening international Aboriginal trade policy.

RIGHTS OF WOMEN

- Canada was instrumental in securing the position of the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women in 1994. This mandate was renewed in 1997 for a second term as a result of a Canadian-led resolution at the UN Commission on Human Rights.
- Canada successfully pressed for provisions that focus on the plight of women in armed conflict in the International Criminal Court Statute adopted in Rome in July 1998.

For further information, including follow-up to the 1995 Beijing UN World Conference on Women, see "Canada's International Activities to Promote the Advancement of Women, Highlights 1990-1997" at the Status of Women Canada Web site: www.swc-cfc.gc.ca



photo: Laurie Wiseberg

CANADA-NORWAY PARTNERSHIP: THE LYSSEN DECLARATION

- Minister Axworthy and his Norwegian counterpart, Knut Vollebæk, signed the Lysen Declaration in Bergen, Norway, on May 11, 1998.
- The Declaration commits Canada and Norway to a framework for consultation and concerted action on landmines; the establishment of an International Criminal Court; human rights; international humanitarian law; women and children in armed conflict; small arms proliferation; child soldiers; child labour; and northern Arctic co-operation.
- As a result of the Declaration, Canada and Norway are helping to demine Bosnia. The Bosnian army had been removing mines, but had to stop because they lacked the insurance necessary to perform at the standard required for civilian use of the land. Canada and Norway agreed to co-fund insurance for two years, which has allowed the Bosnian army to increase its demining force by 70 percent.

THE CANADIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

The Canadian Human Rights Commission, which operates independently of government, is responsible for ensuring that equal rights are understood and respected in Canada. Internationally, it shares human rights expertise with groups who want to create or strengthen human rights commissions and it assists organizations working directly in human rights, rather than particular governments.

The Commission is part of a network of national human rights organizations operating under the umbrella of the United Nations.

See the articles on the International Criminal Court, page 1; Makwa International: An Inter-Indigenous Venture, page 6; and the AP Mine Ban Convention, page 15.

HISTORICAL PROFILE

Lester B. Pearson

N A T I O N S

I N • T H E • N E W S

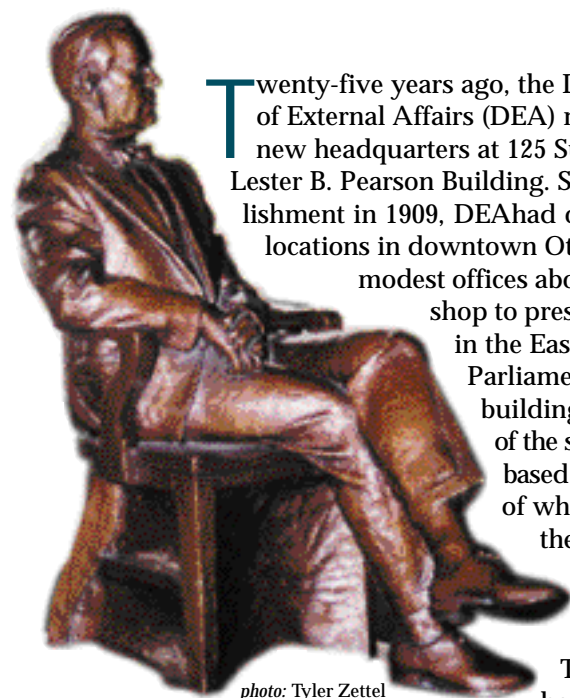


photo: Tyler Zettel

PALAIS PEARSON
or
MIKE'S PLACE

The Lester B. Pearson Building was formally opened by Queen Elizabeth II on August 1, 1973. As the Queen remarked then, "Lester Pearson's great qualities were that he was considerate, tolerant and fair, and he had an infectious cheerfulness and optimism. If the atmosphere of this building can come to reflect those qualities, it could not be a better inspiration for the people who work here." The 25th anniversary of the opening of the Pearson Building will be commemorated by an "Open House" on November 2, 1998, to which all are invited.

"Lester Pearson's great qualities were that he was considerate, tolerant and fair, and he had an infectious cheerfulness and optimism. If the atmosphere of this building can come to reflect those qualities, it could not be a better inspiration for the people who work here."

QUEEN ELIZABETH II
August 1, 1973

place for the first time in many years. Located near the confluence of the Rideau and Ottawa Rivers, the Pearson Building is literally grounded in the bedrock of the Canadian Shield.

It was entirely appropriate that the building should be named for "Mike" Pearson. Not only was he a former Prime Minister and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, but he had long been associated with DEA. In 1928, Mr. Pearson was one of the first recruits for the Canadian foreign service. Twenty years later, he entered politics and was named Secretary of State for External Affairs. As Prime Minister (1963-1968), Lester B. Pearson had approved construction on a site known as the ceremonial route, not far from the official residences of the Prime Minister and the Governor General. When the decision to name the building after Lester B. Pearson was taken, less than a week before he died in 1972, the "admiration and affection" of DEA for a long-time associate was evident in Undersecretary Ed Ritchie's private quip to him that the building might become known as "Palais Pearson or Mike's Place".

ON THE RECORD

A Vision for North America

Excerpts from an address by Minister Axworthy to the Mid-America Committee, September 9, 1998, Chicago, Illinois

If we can get North American co-operation right, not only will our own countries benefit, but we would provide an important model of regional co-operation in a fluid and uncertain world.

To date, much of our attention has focussed on North American free trade. But globalization means more than simply freer trade. There are a whole host of common concerns we need to address together. We need to look ahead and develop a vision of what we want a North American community to be. The challenge is to develop a North American "footprint" that treads lightly enough that it does not crush the existing landscape formed by our distinctive histories and cultures.

Environmental and natural resource issues, for example, are fundamental to the well-being of North Americans. Effective stewardship of our shared environment means we have to develop solutions before problems become acute. Climate change is one area where North American co-operation has great potential. A North American emissions trading arrangement could set a model for the world in co-operation between countries at different levels of development.

Another key area is developing seamless borders for legitimate trade and movement of people, but which present us with effective barriers to crime, terrorism and the drug trade. Establishing continental transport corridors could offer major benefits for local communities, if they are developed with significant local input and in an environmentally sustainable way.

NIGERIA

A country with a troubling human rights record, Nigeria has made a strong commitment to move toward democracy and openness, and Canada has pledged to help.

Nigeria's relationship with the international community became strained in 1993 following the annulment of election results. Under a military government led by General Sani Abacha, relations reached a crisis in 1995 with the execution of the poet and environmentalist, Ken Saro-Wiwa, and eight other human rights activists. Canada was a strong voice in denouncing the executions and widespread repression.

Since the death of General Abacha on June 8, 1998, the new head of state, General Abdulsalam Abubakar, has implemented a number of significant measures in the move toward democratization. Most political prisoners have been released; the five parties officially recognized by the Abacha regime have been abolished and a new Independent National Elections Commission has been established; restrictions on trade union activity have been lifted; and new freely contested elections have been scheduled for the first quarter of 1999.

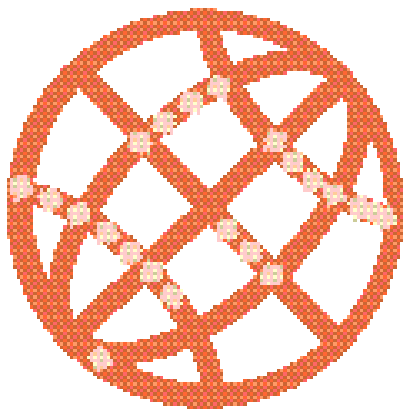
These actions are addressing most of the concerns Canada has raised in recent years. In response, Canada is moving to restore its relationship with Nigeria. The recent visit to Nigeria of Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) David Kilgour was a first step in this process. Initially, a Canadian diplomat will work out of the U.S. Embassy, but reopening the Canadian High Commission is now being actively considered.

In addition, Canada has offered financial and technical aid in support of Nigeria's transition to democracy. Given Nigeria's recent history, Canada's optimism is tempered by a realistic appreciation of the challenges still facing the country. It does appear, however, that Nigeria is making significant steps in the right direction.

• OPEN HOUSE •

November 2, 1998

Canadian Centre For Foreign Policy Development



Canadians interested in our nation's foreign policy have an opportunity to help shape it through the ongoing work of the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development (CCFPD). The Centre was created with the belief that stronger engagement of the public makes for policy that better serves the interests of Canadians. Issues the Centre has been active in range from peacekeeping to development assistance, human rights, free media, telecommunications and conflict resolution.

The Centre reaches out to Canadians by hosting specific events and managing a fund that supports policy option projects. Recent events include:

- The National Forum — a series of events across the country promoting policy discussions around a specific issue. This year's forum focussed on Arctic issues and our relations with other Arctic nations. Input from those discussions helped shape Canada's policy in preparation for the Arctic Council, a meeting of eight Arctic nations hosted by Canada in Iqaluit on September 17 and 18. At that meeting, ministers, Indigenous peoples and other participants discussed plans and priorities for co-operative efforts on social, economic and environmental issues.
- Roundtable discussions involving experts and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on limiting the use of small arms in internal conflicts around the world.
- Co-hosting the conference "Human Rights and the Internet" in which participants explored how to use the Internet to protect and promote human rights and the leadership role Canada should take. This complements ongoing discussions of the CCFPD to promote co-operation between government and NGOs on human rights issues.

Visit our Web site at: www.cfp-pec.gc.ca

We encourage you to get involved in our events.



The Canadian Landmine Fund, a \$100 million initiative announced by Prime Minister Chrétien in December 1997, is being used to remove mines, assist victims, develop technology and help countries comply with the treaty.

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention* was signed by 122 countries in Ottawa on December 3 and 4, 1997.

People all over the world witnessed the historic signing of a legally binding treaty that puts in place new international norms against anti-personnel (AP) mines. They also learned that Canada had created a five-year, \$100 million fund, to support the full implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban

To date, 131 signatory states have committed themselves to:

- banning the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines;
- providing data on their AP mine stockpiles and National Mine Action Programs;
- destroying existing stockpiles within four years of the Convention coming into force;
- clearing minefields within 10 years; and
- co-operating with a compliance regime.

The Ottawa Convention and Public Participation

Convention.

Since then, the Convention has become known as the Ottawa Convention. Ottawa has now entered the international community's vocabulary and joined the list of Canada's best-known cities. It was a mix of traditional state diplomacy, NGO public advocacy and individual commitment that played a vital role in the success of the first part of the process toward creating a mine-free world. On September 21, 1998, to maintain that commitment, Minister Axworthy launched the Mine Action Outreach Program, in co-operation with Mines Action Canada and the Red Cross. Mines Action Canada will receive \$300 000 to help sustain its activities in the campaign to ban anti-personnel mines. As part of the Outreach Program, six Youth Mine Action

Ambassadors have been appointed to work with local mine action groups to

alert educators and activists across Canada to the challenges of global mine action. Youth Ambassadors are young, recent university graduates with a background in community education and an up-to-date knowledge of landmine issues. They are ready to visit schools, community groups and universities to help link people to national and international landmine-ban movements.

For more information about how you can get involved, or to contact a Youth Ambassador in your area, call the Mine Action Team at: (613) 944-1643.

To obtain our CD-ROM "Ban Landmines! The Ottawa Process and the International Movement to Ban Landmines" and other information materials, call 1-800-267-8376 (toll free) or (613) 944-4000.

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention will become binding in international law on March 1, 1999, now that the 40th state has deposited its instrument of ratification with the UN Secretary-General.

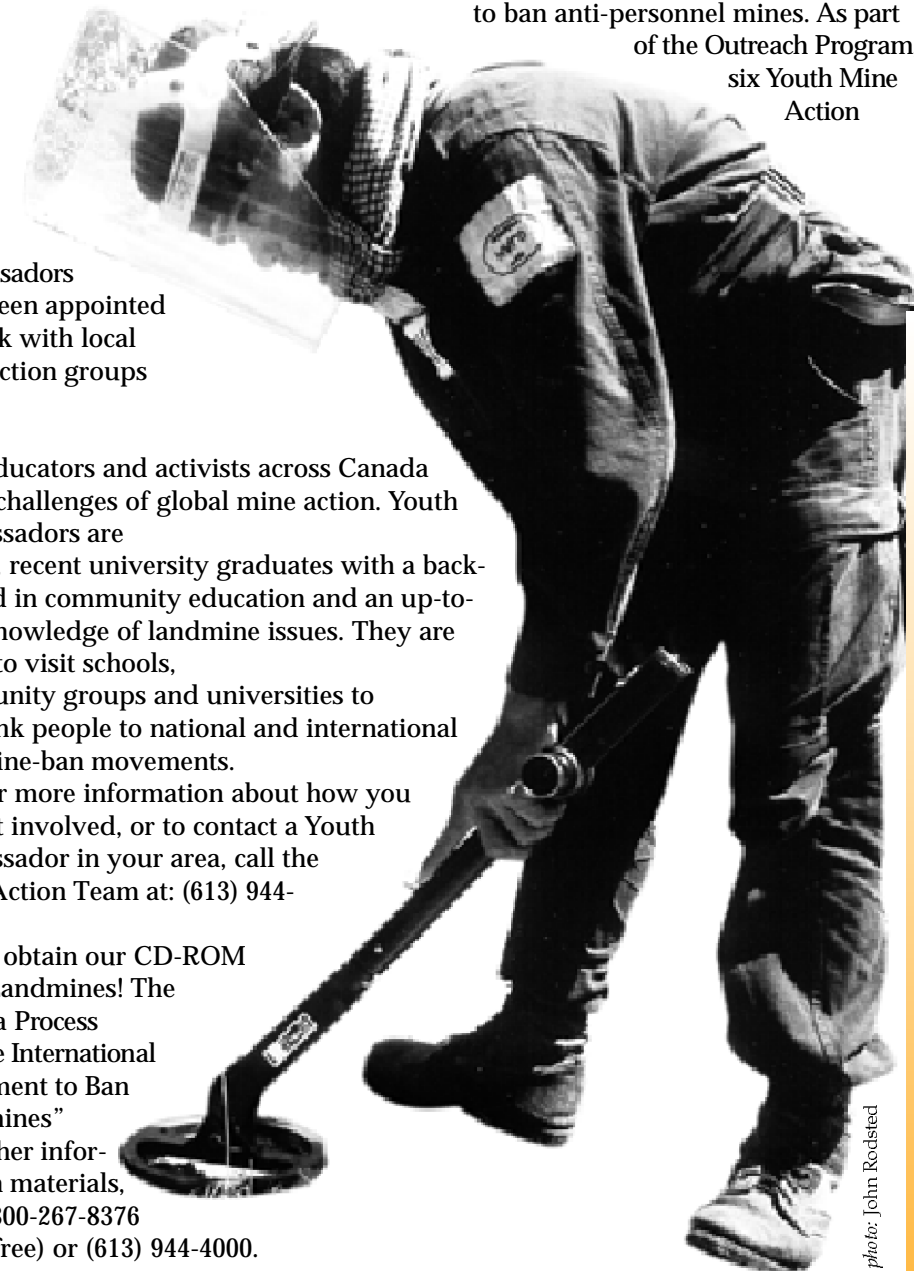


photo: John Rodsted

Policy BRIEFS

Canada Wins UN Security Council Seat

On October 8, 1998, Canada succeeded in its bid to serve a two-year term on the United Nations (UN) Security Council starting January 1, 1999. Canada was elected on its first ballot with 131 votes; 177 UN member states were eligible to vote.

"This is a tremendous recognition of Canada's international stature by member states of the UN," said Mr. Axworthy. "By electing Canada to the Security Council, they have acknowledged Canada's solid international peace and security credentials. Canada's leadership on such initiatives as the anti-personnel mine ban, our work on the International Criminal Court, and our extensive history of participation in UN peacekeeping operations puts Canada in an excellent position to play an effective and constructive role on the



Council and help prepare it to meet the challenges of the 21st century."

The Security Council is the world's paramount body for safeguarding and promoting international peace and security. One of Canada's main objectives during its term will be to include human security concerns in Council discussions. Such concerns include conflict prevention, peacebuilding and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Canada will also work to make the Security Council more effective, transparent and responsive to the legitimate views of all member states.

About this MAGAZINE

In a democratic society, public policy ideally reflects the will of informed citizens making their decisions on the basis of sound information. **Canada World View** is intended to contribute to that understanding.

There is no lack in Canada of excellent publications, both in print and electronic form, aimed at academic and other

experts in foreign affairs. In terms of subject matter and treatment, this magazine will fill a different niche. Its aim is to provide Canadians with a brief overview of current foreign policy issues and Canada's perspective on them.

Each issue will focus on a central theme of Canadian foreign policy — in this case, human rights. The publication

will also update readers on foreign policy news and report on Canadian initiatives, responses and contributions in foreign affairs. It will cover aspects of our relations with other nations, both on a country-to-country basis and within the framework of Canada's membership in international organizations such as the United Nations.

While this publication will fulfill the requirements of some readers, for those who want to delve deeper, we will supply, wherever possible, signposts to other sources.

The Editors

DID YOU KNOW THAT...



• Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade has 128 missions and 29 satellite offices around the world in major cities ranging alphabetically from Abidjan to Zagreb;

• Canada is the only country in the world that belongs to the Group of Eight Leading Industrialized Countries (G-8), the Commonwealth and La Francophonie;

• the border between Canada and the United States remains the longest undefended frontier in the world, as it has been throughout the 20th century;

• the founding Director General of the World Health Organization, Dr. Brock Chisholm, was a Canadian;

• the Passport Office issues approximately 1 million passports every year.



For more information

or to subscribe to this magazine, do not hesitate to contact us at the:

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N.B. Certain photos in this magazine have been cropped for space considerations.

