

World View

CANADA ON THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL

Opportunities and Challenges



Canada was the recipient of a remarkable vote of confidence on October 8, 1998, when 131 of 177 possible votes

re cast in its favour during the election to fill five of the ten non-permanent seats on the United Nations Security Council. Canada's new mandate will run from January 1, 1999, to December 31, 2000.

On completion of the voting, Minister of Foreign Affairs Lloyd Axworthy said that this was a tremendous recognition of Canada's international stature by member states of the UN. "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

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UN Security Council
in session



photo: CANAPRESS

With Canada's election to the UN Security Council, the editorial team of *Canada World View* thought it appropriate to devote this second issue to Canada's action in the UN system.

Stories include an overview of Canada's historical role within the UN, particularly with regard to peacekeeping, as well as perspectives for the future at the dawn of a new millennium.

What are the challenges and the opportunities facing Canada at the time of the UN's renewal? Read it in our pages.

The Editors

Issue 2 • 1999

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Lloyd Axworthy



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and
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Andrew McNaughton



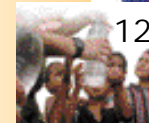
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Court, and our extensive history of participation in UN peacekeeping operations put Canada in an excellent position to play an effective and constructive role on the Council and help prepare it to meet the challenges of the coming century.”


This will be the sixth time that Canada has served on the Security Council since the UN was established in 1945. Its first term was during 1948-1949. This new mandate comes at an important symbolic point in time for Canada and the United Nations, since it coincides with the end of the 20th century and the beginning of a new millennium.


Fifty years after its first period of service on the Council, Canada will be faced with a number of conflicts for which durable peaceful solutions have never been found — such as in the Middle East and certain parts of Asia and Africa.


The events marking the 20th century include two world wars and innumerable regional and internal armed conflicts. While the establishment of the United Nations helped avoid the repetition of widespread conflict during the second half of the century, it has not succeeded in preventing the spread of small-scale conflicts. Many observers have expressed the view that the United Nations Security Council must address this difficult problem as a priority. In our interview with Minister Axworthy, he stressed that this is an area in which he plans to focus Canada’s activities during its term on the Council. ●—


The FIVE PERMANENT MEMBERS of the Security Council are:

 China

 France

 Russia

 United Kingdom

 United States

The TEN NON-PERMANENT MEMBERS during 1999 will be:

Argentina, Bahrain, Brazil, **Canada**, Gabon, Gambia, Malaysia, Namibia, the Netherlands and Slovenia.

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Interview with Minister Axworthy

Lloyd Axworthy talks to **Canada World View**



photo: DFAIT

As the 20th century draws to a close, the world is still confronted with a number of major challenges, the biggest of which is finding ways to put an end to the numerous and recurring conflicts that plague too many countries and regions.

With Canada’s election to a new two-year term on the UN Security Council (UNSC), our diplomacy will be put to the test. What kind of contribution does Canada intend to make at the Council table in particular and within the UN system as a whole?

In search of answers to these questions, **Canada World View** met with Minister Axworthy and asked him about his perception of the UN, the new approaches Canada will put forward to bring an end to conflicts, and his hopes for the new year.

Canada World View

Mr. Minister, first of all, congratulations for having received the North-South Prize of the Council of Europe. What does the prize mean to you?

Minister Axworthy

Well, it was a great honour to receive this prize. And while it was awarded to me for my contribution to the landmines campaign, I think it is very much a recognition of the accomplishments that a large coalition of governments, non-governmental organizations, and individuals was able to achieve by working together on this important issue.

Canada World View

On October 8, 1998, Canada was elected for a new mandate on the UN Security Council. Sitting at the Security Council's table presents both challenges and opportunities. What will Canada's agenda be at the UNSC in 1999?

Minister Axworthy

We intend to be a very active member of the Security Council. I have focussed on issues of peace and security in the past year or two, and the Security Council is the main international body responsible for promoting those goals. I think the problem is that the Security Council has historically been rather conservative in how it defines “security” and mostly reactive to situations of conflict. We will be pushing for the Council to broaden its concept of security to include conflict prevention and peacebuilding, human rights and humanitarian issues, as well as to be more proactive. Kofi Annan, the current UN Secretary-General, has been moving the organization and the Council in this direction, and we hope to add to that momentum.

Canada World View

You have expressed some criticism of the UN system, particularly the Security Council, and you have called for reforms. In addition to encouraging a broader agenda and a more proactive approach, what kind of reforms would you like to see take place, first at the Security Council level and then throughout the UN system?

Minister Axworthy

A key element of our campaign is to work to make the Security Council more open, transparent, and responsive to the membership of the UN as a whole. If members are contributing to peacekeeping efforts or other Security Council missions, then we can't just make decisions on their behalf. We need to share information and allow for some feedback.

Canada World View

Over the past 18 months or so, you have talked about a new concept in world affairs — that of “human security” and peacebuilding as opposed to state security and peacekeeping. Can you elaborate on this new approach?

Minister Axworthy

The human security concept is basically a recognition that the world has changed. There are fewer conflicts between countries. Wars are more often internal, they are religious and ethnic in nature, and innocent civilians are increasingly the victims of this violence. We have seen it in the massive refugee flows in places like Kosovo and Central Africa. So the focus of attention needs to move from the security of the state to the security of the individual. At the same time, a lot of other problems are crossing borders with greater ease — illicit drugs, terrorism, weapons, environmental concerns — and these have a direct impact on our own citizens, on the air we breathe, and on the safety of our streets. Again, these are issues that affect the security of individuals, and a new approach is necessary. We need to take a fresh look at what sorts of international laws and norms and co-operative efforts are needed to deal with this — hence our involvement in landmines and in pursuing the International Criminal Court. And we have learned it can't be done alone.

Canada World View

1999 will be a very busy year for Canada on the international stage, with several major events taking place such as the G-8, the Commonwealth and La Francophonie summits. What will be the major themes on Canada's agenda at these summits?

Minister Axworthy

To the extent we can influence the agenda, these meetings are an opportunity to advance the human security agenda I've just described. Canada hosts La Francophonie in Moncton and the Pan Am Games in Winnipeg, so these are also an opportunity to showcase the diversity of our country.

Canada World View

In a few words, what would be your assessment of Canada's foreign policy achievements and action during the twentieth century — which Sir Wilfrid Laurier said would be “Canada's century”?

Minister Axworthy

I think in many ways we have achieved Laurier's vision. For several years, the UN has said we are the best country in the world to live in. We are not the greatest economic or military power, but in many ways we are a model for the world for the century ahead. We are a country that celebrates our diversity, has developed good social programs, has a strong economy, and works hard to promote its values and ideas internationally.

Canada World View

If only one of your wishes could come true in 1999, what would be the most important achievement you would like to see accomplished in the world?

Minister Axworthy

I hope in a year we can make significant progress on a number of issues, such as small arms and children in war. It's not easy to pick one. I guess 1999 will also be a year of thinking and preparing for the next millennium, and I hope that reflecting on the past century, and how violent it has been, will strengthen the resolve of the international community to make the next century much less violent. ●—

THE BLUE BERET AND THE RED MAPLE LEAF

With eight years of peacekeeping experience under his belt, Master Corporal Lorne Mann is no stranger to the trouble spots of the post-war world. Serving under the UN banner, he has seen the impact of genocide in Rwanda and warlord-induced starvation in Somalia without becoming discouraged.

Master Corporal Mann is a member of a Canadian battle group of 800 personnel who are part of a NATO-led force keeping the peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and he remains optimistic and undiscouraged. "When I patrol the villages and countryside of Bosnia, I see a country of great potential," he says. "There are always the constant reminders of the battles — bullet holes, homes destroyed. But the bottom line is the people. When I see them rebuilding their homes and villages, it has an impact on me and my fellow soldiers."

The former Yugoslavia has been the scene of the largest Canadian military deployment since Korea. Of over 2,000 Canadians serving on UN or other peace missions in October 1998, over 60% were in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

CANADIAN PEACEKEEPING AND THE UN

Since the end of World War II, some 80,000 Canadians have served on peace or humanitarian operations large and small throughout the world. These include monitoring of cease-fires in Cyprus and in the Sinai Desert starting in 1956 when the UN applied Lester B. Pearson's concept of placing a UN force between Israeli and Egyptian forces — a milestone in the development of peacekeeping. Canada has been taking part in UN peacekeeping and related missions for half a century, including the two earliest, supervision of elections in Korea in 1948 and observing the cease-fire between India and Kashmir in 1949.

Over the years, Canadians have taken part in missions ranging from weapons control and mine removal to humanitarian rescue efforts. Mission locations have included Namibia, the Golan Heights, Angola, Cambodia, Rwanda, Somalia, Haiti and El Salvador. New calls to duty come in by the year. At the time of writing, six Canadian CF-18 fighters based in Italy have been helping to enforce the NATO no-fly zone over Bosnia and were on the alert to take action in Kosovo, if required.

The incremental casualties of peacekeeping do not register as vividly in national consciousness as those of all-out war. But each casualty represents a personal sacrifice in the cause of peace and the fulfilment of a commitment to its collective protection. As a parliamentary committee report put it in 1970: "The work of peacekeeping is not glamorous. It is frustrating. It does not inspire gratitude. It does not directly assist narrow Canadian interests. But it is an essential service... one for which Canada has special qualifications." ●—

photo: DND

PEACEBUILDING at Work

THE CANADA - NORWAY PARTNERSHIP

In May 1998, Canada and Norway signed a formal agreement aimed at working together for the promotion of peacebuilding in the world. Known as the Lysøen Declaration, the agreement brought immediate results on two key issues: landmines and the International Criminal Court. As part of the agreement to promote human security, our two countries continue to work closely on human rights, international humanitarian law, gender dimensions in peacebuilding, small arms proliferation, children in armed conflict, child labour, and Arctic and northern co-operation.

On September 16, 1998, Minister Axworthy met with Norwegian Foreign Minister Knut Vollebæk in Ottawa to review what has been a successful first stage in the partnership. Given the success of the initiative, they agreed to involve other like-minded countries. On September 25, they co-hosted a meeting to outline some of the measures they are taking and to exhort others to join their efforts. Over 90 countries participated in the meeting — reflecting the world-wide need for greater security, concrete action and a new approach to human security.

The meeting was also evidence that Canada and Norway's soft power approach, which is based on negotiation rather than coercion, powerful ideas rather than powerful weapons, and public diplomacy rather than backroom bargaining as an effective means to pursue a human security

agenda, had struck a powerful chord in the international community. A concrete example of the Canada-Norway partnership is currently under way in Algeria. Canadian child mental health professionals in collaboration with Norwegian partners are working with Algerian psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers and educators to provide appropriate counselling and support to Algerian children and their caregivers traumatized by exposure to extreme violence. The Montréal-based Centre canadien d'étude et de coopération internationale manages the project, with the Montreal Children's Hospital and the McGill University Faculty of Medicine providing technical support.

Since the violence started in Algeria in 1993, the incidence of juvenile diabetes, stuttering, and epilepsy has increased dramatically. Nightmares are common to all children, as is the fear that a bomb may go off anywhere, anytime, including at school. Severe depression, anxiety, hostility and lack of trust are other symptoms of psychological pain that need to be addressed.

The project is also aimed at promoting the concept of children as a "zone of peace" in the midst of civil violence, and it seeks a common commitment by all parties to the protection and well-being of all Algerian children. It is hoped that with its origins based on quiet diplomacy, the project will have wider benefits for peacebuilding and dialogue in the Algerian society. ●—

"Our goal is to work with other like-minded countries and partners from civil society to promote respect for human rights and humanitarian law. This is the new diplomacy that we want to put to work. A humane world is a safe world."

Lloyd Axworthy and
Knut Vollebæk, *International Herald
Tribune*, October 21, 1998.

photo: CANAPRESS



BAPTISM BY FIRE

Canada's First Term on the Security Council



IN JANUARY 1948, FOR THE FIRST TIME, Canada took its seat as a rotating, two-year member of the UN Security Council. As things turned out, this first term covered a tumultuous period. From the South Pacific to western Europe, the post-World-War-II world was smouldering with crises and in some places aflame with armed conflict. In short, the Security Council, still less than three years old, was being tested by exactly the challenges it was designed to meet.

In Europe, where the Cold War was setting in, the Soviet-engineered Communist coup in Czechoslovakia galvanized the Western nations into negotiating the Treaty that would create the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Canada joined other Council members in a unanimous resolution — promptly vetoed by the U.S.S.R. — to investigate the coup.

Later in 1948, the Council had a shooting war on its hands: Britain withdrew from the Palestine Mandate, the UN recognized the new state of Israel, and a brief but bloody conflict ensued. Canada was one of eight Council members calling for an immediate UN-supervised cease-fire. Canadian Forces were later to participate in keeping the peace.

In South Asia, India and Pakistan were fighting over the disputed province of Kashmir. The Council adopted a resolution by Canada and five other members calling for a cease-fire. Canadian soldiers were subsequently part of a small UN unit sent to Kashmir to report on observance of the cease-fire, which came into effect on January 1, 1949.

In this period, one crisis in particular had the potential to ignite a third world war: 1948 and 1949 were the years of the Soviet blockade of Berlin and the Western airlift that defeated it. Canada was involved in Security Council attempts — ultimately futile — to defuse the crisis. When the 11-month blockade ended in June 1949, it was by U.S.-Soviet agreement.

A fourth challenge to peace loomed in the emerging nation of Indonesia, and it was here that Canada exerted its greatest influence. A precarious truce existed between the Netherlands and the forces fighting for independence. General Andrew McNaughton, serving as Council President, presented a Canadian resolution mapping out a plan for peace. When the move was predictably vetoed by the Soviets, McNaughton argued, in effect, that the veto did not matter since the Council had earlier approved the essential elements of the peace plan. It was a milestone of sorts — the first time in which a veto in the Council had made no difference. Peace and independence came to Indonesia in December just as Canada's two-year term was ending.

Apart from its role in these events, Canada played an influential part in shaping future UN approaches. In 1948-1949, the Security Council was still learning on the job about the challenges of keeping the peace in a polarized world. Through its pragmatic approach, which combined commitment with the art of the possible, Canada helped draw the template for the Security Council's dealings with future crises. And Canada itself came out at the end of its two-year term with a greater appreciation of the potential of the UN and a new determination to make it work. ●

A Canadian "beacon of light" in the early UN

Andrew McNaughton

Ottawa — a winter day in 1946. In his office on Parliament Hill, Prime Minister Mackenzie King cautiously ponders the choice of Canada's first representative to the newly formed UN Atomic Energy Commission. Finally he asks, "What kind of people are other countries sending?" "Diplomats, scientists, politicians," says an advisor. "McNaughton," says King instantly. "All three."

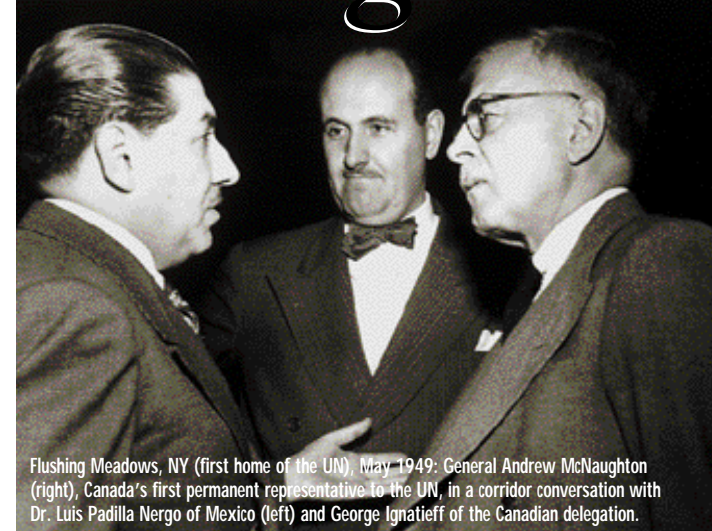
He could have added, "and many more." Born in Moosomin, Saskatchewan, in 1887, Andrew George Latta McNaughton was also soldier, engineer, Cabinet minister, administrator and patriot.

McNaughton the scientist graduated from McGill with a B.Sc. degree in 1910 and an M.Sc. in physics and engineering in 1912. His accomplishments included invention of the cathode-ray direction finder, certified as a direct ancestor of radar by no less than the inventor himself, Robert Watson-Watt. McNaughton later sold the patent for one dollar to the National Research Council of Canada (NRC).

McNaughton the soldier began his career in 1909 when he enlisted in the militia. In World War I, his battlefield service and application of scientific principles to artillery won him rapid advancement to Brigadier-General and also the professional respect of his allied peers, who often sought his advice. After the war, McNaughton joined the permanent forces and was Chief of the General Staff (CGS) until his appointment as President of the NRC in 1935.

In this role, the impact of his innovative approaches spilled over into Canadian social and economic development. Through the fledgling Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF), he championed the development of the Vickers Vedette flying boat. Designed from the pontoons up for Canadian conditions, the Vedette became the prime tool in the mapping of northern aviation routes. As CGS, McNaughton also had a direct hand in knitting together a nationwide chain of airports and beacons built largely by unemployed workers housed in army-run relief camps. As well, he was a moving force in the creation of Trans-Canada Airlines, which later became Air Canada.

Returning to the army during World War II after heading the NRC for four years, McNaughton commanded Canada's armed forces in Europe from 1940 to 1943 as they grew from division to corps to full-fledged army. McNaughton the politician had a brief but eventful career, serving capably as Minister of National Defence but failing in two tries for a seat in the House. There was also McNaughton the patriot. The common theme of every phase of his career was attention to Canadian needs and Canadian interests. In World War II, his stubborn



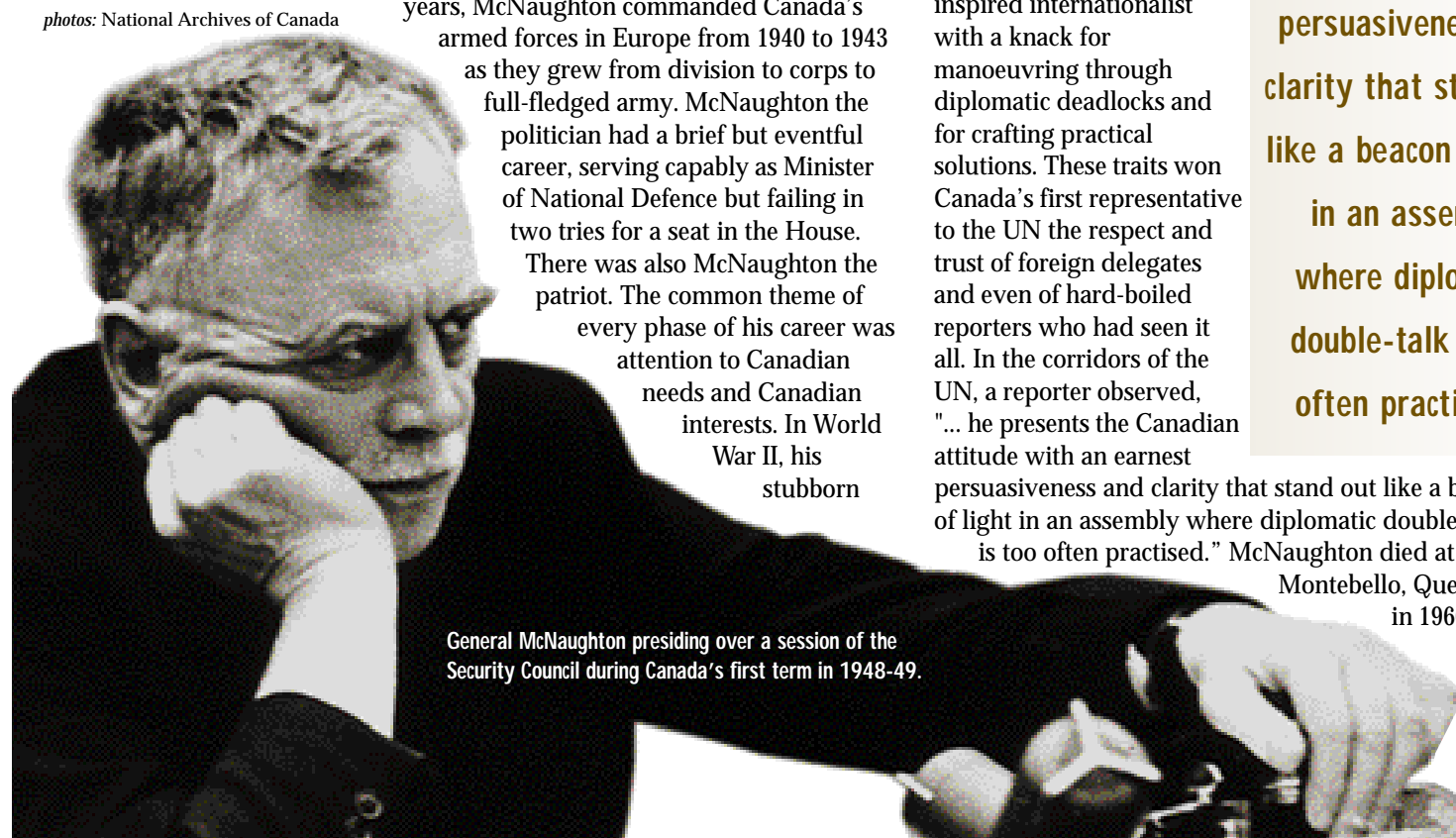
Flushing Meadows, NY (first home of the UN), May 1949: General Andrew McNaughton (right), Canada's first permanent representative to the UN, in a corridor conversation with Dr. Luis Padilla Nergo of Mexico (left) and George Ignatieff of the Canadian delegation.

insistence that Canada's forces remain together and under Canadian control provoked the hostility of senior British commanders, alienated his own defence minister, and led eventually to his recall. In the last chapter of his career, as Chairman of the Canadian section of the International Joint Commission, McNaughton fought passionately to defend his view of Canadian interests.

In 1946, the achievements of McNaughton the diplomat still lay in the future, but they were to fulfill King's assessment. The passionate patriot turned out also to be an inspired internationalist with a knack for manoeuvring through diplomatic deadlocks and for crafting practical solutions. These traits won Canada's first representative to the UN the respect and trust of foreign delegates and even of hard-boiled reporters who had seen it all. In the corridors of the UN, a reporter observed, "... he presents the Canadian attitude with an earnest persuasiveness and clarity that stand out like a beacon of light in an assembly where diplomatic double-talk is too often practised."

"... he presents the Canadian attitude with an earnest persuasiveness and clarity that stand out like a beacon of light in an assembly where diplomatic double-talk is too often practised."

Montebello, Quebec, in 1966. ●



General McNaughton presiding over a session of the Security Council during Canada's first term in 1948-49.

FROM Peacekeeping TO Peacebuilding Canada

Takes the Initiative

Both the creation of the United Nations and the end of the Cold War in the early 1990s raised great hopes for a durable world peace. Although widespread conflicts have disappeared, they have unfortunately been replaced by a large number

of civil wars and regional conflicts. No fewer than 87 armed conflicts were identified in 1997, with every one of them except three located in

developing countries. All share the characteristics of long-term cycles of violence and the tendency to spread to neighbouring countries.

The huge human and financial costs of these conflicts have led the international community to re-examine the situation as a whole and to explore new and creative ways to deal with this recurring violence. Two key concepts have emerged from this process of reflection: human security and peacebuilding.

Canada, a pioneer in peacekeeping, was one of the first countries to promote the peacebuilding concept in 1996 when it launched the Canadian Peacebuilding Initiative. Since peacebuilding is linked both to security and to development, the Initiative is a joint

program of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). There can be no development without peace, and there can be no peace without equitable economic and social development.

The Initiative has two components: the Canadian Peacebuilding Fund and the Canadian Peacebuilding Program. The purpose of the Fund, which is managed by CIDA, is to stimulate local peacebuilding initiatives. So far, about 40 projects have been completed or are in progress in Africa, Asia, Central America, the Middle East, Haiti and Bosnia. These projects cover activities such as instruction in peaceful conflict resolution techniques, collection and destruction of small arms, and education about the electoral

process. The Fund supports projects associated

with both conflict prevention and post-conflict social and economic reconstruction.

The Canadian Peacebuilding Program, which is managed by DFAIT, has three objectives: a) to identify and train Canadian men and women capable of participating in specific conflict prevention and peacebuilding projects; b) to reinforce multilateral peacebuilding mechanisms such as the regional and international organizations; and c) to support small projects that do not fit into official development assistance programs but may, for example, help to reconcile communities after the end of a conflict.

On September 25, 1998, Minister Axworthy presented to the United Nations General Assembly the first report on Canada's activities in this field, entitled *Peace in Progress - The Canadian Peacebuilding Initiative*, which earned Canada much praise for its leadership in this area.

Promotion of the peacebuilding concept and related activities will therefore be central to Canada's diplomatic agenda in 1999. As a result of its re-election to the United Nations

Security Council, Canada will be in a position to play a decisive role in encouraging the international community to become much more active in conflict prevention and durable peacebuilding. ●—

For a copy of the report, or to learn more about the Initiative, please contact:

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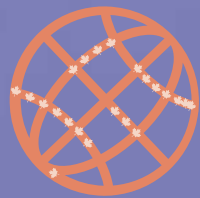
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photos: Canadian International Development Agency

Canadian Centre
For Foreign Policy
Development



THE NEW FRONTIER

The Arctic as a new dimension of Canada's Foreign Policy

In September 1996, delegates from eight countries and three international organizations representing Indigenous peoples meeting in Ottawa launched the Arctic Council.

Since its inauguration, working groups have been focussed on co-operative approaches on a range of issues, such as protecting the marine environment, preventing and responding to environmental emergencies, and conserving arctic flora and fauna.

In preparation for the first ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council, which was held in Iqaluit, in Canada's eastern Arctic, September 17 and 18, 1998,

the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development held a series of public discussions called the National Forum on Canada's Circumpolar Relations. The discussions contributed to the development of a consultation paper entitled "Toward a Northern Foreign Policy for Canada." The paper explores several themes of crucial importance to Canada, such as northern sovereignty and security, bilateral relations with northern neighbours, environmental protection, and social and cultural renewal.

Both the National Forum discussions and the consultation paper were instrumental in devising Canada's position at the meeting of the Council, which was co-hosted by Minister Axworthy and Indian Affairs and Northern Development Minister Jane Stewart. Delegates agreed on action plans for the next two years, particularly in the areas of telemedicine, resource management and sustainable development, and adopted Canada's Children and Youth of the Arctic initiative. The initiative provides for internships for Inuit youth within the Inuit Circumpolar Conference. Canada was also instrumental in the endorsement of a proposal to study the creation of a University of the Arctic, a "university without walls."

"The North is really the frontier of opportunity for the 21st century, and the work of the Council is key to realizing its full potential," said Minister Stewart. "Arctic nations share an environment and many common



Mary Simon

photo: CANAPRESS

Note

The Centre will make available in February on its Web site the results of a series of forums held in January to discuss Canada's new two-year term on the UN Security Council.

interests, and cooperative efforts between nations can make a difference in the lives of Northerners," said Minister Axworthy.

In partnership with Arctic ambassador Mary Simon, the Centre will hold meetings across Canada as a follow-up to the 1998 National Forum and the Arctic Council of Ministers' meeting. For more information about these meetings or to obtain copies of the Centre's report and the consultation paper, please visit the Centre's Web site at the following address: <http://www.cfp-pec.gc.ca> ●

The Arctic Council brings together eight circumpolar countries: Canada, Denmark/Greenland, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the United States. The four Permanent Participants are: the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, the Saami Council, the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North and the Aleut International Association of Alaska. Accredited Observers include non-Arctic states and non-governmental organizations.

photo: DFAIT

photo: CANAPRESS

NGO Profile

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

"We the peoples of the United Nations..." With these opening words, the UN Charter of 1945 makes it clear that the United Nations is not an organization of the world's member states but of its peoples.

As such, the United Nations, though not a world government, faces a challenge familiar to democratic administrations — staying in touch with its constituents. This constituency, however, is global, and from the grassroots level, the UN can seem to be a world away.

To narrow the gap, over the years a system of voluntary UN associations has grown up in 80 countries.



National President of UNA-Canada Muriel Smith and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan at a 1997 gala in Toronto.

photo: UNAC

Making Global Issues Local The United Nations Association - Canada

One of the most active is the United Nations Association in Canada (UNA-Canada). From its small national headquarters office in Ottawa and 15 branches across the country, the 15,000-member organization works year-round to promote Canadian understanding of the UN and support for its cause.

The essence of the task is communication. UNA-Canada is a national clearing house for information about the UN. Among other things, it fields public and media inquiries, publishes a newsletter and other publications, and operates a Web site. It also keeps Canadian industry up to date on UN-related business opportunities.

Locally and nationally, the Association lobbies tirelessly on behalf of international co-operation, drumming up public and government support for UN action on such issues as landmines, human rights, food security, and the financial crisis caused by non-payment of UN dues on the part of some members.

The national office organizes annual events, including gala dinners that combine fund-raising with promotion by featuring senior UN officials as keynote speakers. Each year, the Association awards the Pearson Peace Medal for distinguished service in support of human rights and other international causes.

With the UN turning 54 years old in 1999, UNA-Canada is focussing special attention on youth. Says Executive Director Harry Qualman, "People who can remember when and why the UN came into being are gradually passing from the scene. We have to guard against a generation gap in understanding." ●

The Association's youth programs include:

- support, through its branches, for model UN Assemblies in which high school and university students role-play the part of member states in General Assembly and the Security Council,
- operation of an internship program funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, which places recent university graduates in UN and UN-related offices abroad, and
- a regular poll of Canadians about their UN views. ("Support has stayed high over the years" says Mr. Qualman. "We take some credit for that.")

Individual Canadians can become involved in UNA-Canada by becoming a member of the Association; by attending or organizing UN-related public events in their community; or by making their views about the UN known to their elected representatives. ●

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photo: UNAC

Hurricane Mitch

How Canada is Helping

November 8, 1998, the first Sunday after Hurricane Mitch. The remaining wall of a house is perched precariously atop one of the steep slopes that surround Tegucigalpa, capital of Honduras. Five little boys are playing on a ledge to the side of the wall, seemingly oblivious to the deep, yawning chasm that lies below. Hovering over the chasm in a helicopter, a camera crew picks up the image of the little boys. While the pilot radios for help and the newscaster pleads for someone to do something, television viewers wait helplessly for the wall of the house to slip down the slope into the abyss, taking the boys with it. And then the camera jerks away abruptly as though refusing to record the inevitable horror.

"It was heartbreaking to have to sit there and know those boys were going to die and to be unable to help," says Neil Mussel, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) representative who runs the Office of the Canadian Embassy in Tegucigalpa. At the time, Mussel and his staff of four were spending long days and nights tracking down all Canadians travelling or living in Honduras who had registered with the Embassy. By the end of the second week, the 378 registered Canadians scattered around the country had been located. So had the 257 registered Canadians in Nicaragua, the 662 in Guatemala and the 239 in El Salvador. All were safe and sound.

In the aftermath of Mitch, Neil Mussel and Jack Adams, his counterpart at the Office of the Canadian Embassy in Managua,

Nicaragua (the second-worst hit country in Central America), spent their days ensuring the transportation of relief goods, assessing the damage and helping to decide which projects proposed by the various NGOs and donors would receive funding from the original \$9.15-million Canadian aid package. It was not an easy task, but Canada and Canadians were determined to help.

While the task of getting the people of Central America back on their feet remains daunting, more than two-and-a-half months after the storm hit the region, Canadians like Neil Mussel, Jack Adams and their staff at Canadian missions still have a lot to give and a lot to do.

As part of DFAIT's domestic outreach program, our ambassadors to the countries affected by Hurricane Mitch visited communities across Canada in December to let Canadians know more about Canada's role in the relief effort and to thank them for their generosity.

Ambassador Denis Thibault, who is based in Costa Rica but is also responsible for Nicaragua and Honduras, spent nearly two weeks in Quebec and New Brunswick, while Canada's ambassador to Guatemala and El Salvador, Dan Livermore, covered Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia. The ambassadors were each accompanied by a member of the Department of National Defence (DND)'s Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART). The

visits provided the ambassadors with an opportunity to speak at public events, talk to the media and meet with municipal officials and NGOs who had contributed to the relief effort. ●—

Individual Canadians, churches, trade unions and private corporations have been very generous in helping victims of Hurricane Mitch. Through donations to organizations such as Winnipeg's Mennonite Central Committee, Oxfam-Québec, CARE Canada and several other NGOs, they have contributed more than \$15 million towards emergency assistance and reconstruction in Central America.

Canada has pledged \$100 million in official development assistance (ODA) over the next four years to restore agricultural production, to reconstruct basic health facilities and water and sanitation infrastructure, and to rebuild houses, as well as to plant trees on hillsides to prevent erosion. Canada has also suspended repayments of principal and interest on \$29.5 million in official debt owed by Honduras (Nicaragua has no outstanding debts). In addition, Canada announced a \$3.7-million contribution for the removal of landmines and to support community-based rehabilitation programs in Central America.

Members of the 180-strong DART Team helping Honduran victims of Hurricane Mitch.



photos: CANAPRESS

N A T I O N S

I N • T H E • N E W S

On the Record

Excerpts from Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's speech to the School of Economics and Management of Qinghua University, Beijing, China, November 20, 1998

It has often been said that Asia and Western nations are separated by a divide of values that cannot be bridged. With a deep attachment to collective interests and stability on one side, and an equally abiding attachment to individual rights on the other. And never the twain shall meet.

I do not accept that.

It does not do justice to the diversity of Asian values. Nor is it an honest representation of the balance between individual rights and the needs of society that you find in Canada — and throughout the Western world....

We recognize that extreme individualism — ignoring the greater needs of society — can make for an unstable, even chaotic, society.... But we also recognize that human progress requires the vibrancy, creativity and imagination that can only come from individuals exercising all the freedom necessary to achieve their dreams, ambitions and potential....

We, in Canada, have much to learn from China, with her rich history.... But I would be less than frank if I did not say directly to you that many Canadians are disturbed when we hear reports from your country of restrictions on the right to free expression of different political views. And particularly when we hear of people being harassed and imprisoned for expressing political views different from the government.

When Canadians hear of such things, the progress that China is making on so many political and social fronts is often forgotten. And indeed progress is being made. We were very pleased that China has signed the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, enshrining the freedoms of speech and assembly and participation in public affairs and elections. This follows her signing last year of the UN Covenant on Economic, Cultural and Social Rights. We urge China to place a high priority on ratifying and implementing these covenants....

Canada and China are travelling a common path to the future.... The friendship between Canada and China is a long one. Built on mutual respect, understanding and openness. Built on wisdom!

That spirit has brought us together time and again in this century. And as I reflect on what I have seen at Qinghua, I have no doubt that it will bring us even closer in the next century. ●—

To obtain a copy of the speech and more information about the Prime Minister's trip to China, please visit the following Web site: <http://pm.gc.ca>. To learn more about Canada's presence in China, please visit: www.canada.org.hk



Canada-China

An ever-expanding partnership

The official visit to China by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien in November confirmed once again the ever-expanding partnership between our two countries, notably on human rights issues. For instance, the Prime Minister announced a series of initiatives in the areas of governance, law, and human rights. Projects include training for state prosecutors in criminal trials, assistance to the development of a national legal aid system, and the development, with Chinese partners, of a strategy for the integration into Chinese law of the UN conventions on Economic, Cultural and Social Rights and on Political and Civil Rights, both recently signed by China.

The two governments also announced that the second Asia-Pacific Plurilateral Symposium on Human Rights, co-hosted by Canada and China, would be held in Beijing during the first half of 1999. The firstone was held in Canada in March of 1998.

These latest developments prompted Prime Minister Chrétien to say that, "while we do not always see eye to eye with the Chinese Government on human rights questions, we have a productive dialogue, a track-record of engagement that makes a real difference for people, and a shared commitment that economic progress without civil and human progress is meaningless."

On the environment front, Canada and China are being innovative. The signing of the Canada-China Framework for Cooperation into the 21st century paves the way for enhanced bilateral activity in a broad array of environmental issues and calls for the involvement of various organizations from both countries. The Framework opens the door for bilateral cooperation on climate change and, as such, is one of the first agreements of its kind to be signed between two countries.

Finally, some 46 commercial agreements worth almost \$721 million were signed during the Canada-China Business Forum in Beijing. This prompted International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi to say, "These agreements send a strong message that Canada is broadening and diversifying its trade and investment presence in China."

The agreements include a project by Lavergne China Inc. of Montréal to build a facility to turn contaminated plastic into high-value, semi-finished plastic products; the supply by Newbridge Networks of Kanata of ATM switch equipment that will provide data, voice and multimedia communications and will allow *China Post* to optimize its services; and the provision by Teshmont Consultants Ltd. of Winnipeg of engineering consulting services and the engineering and procurement of high voltage electrical equipment to China Three Gorges Power Corp. ●—

PEOPLE AND EVENTS

In the fall of 1998, Canada was honoured by the visits of:

President Nelson Mandela, who, accompanied by his wife Graça Machel, was showered with tributes during a triumphal, hectic two-day state visit, September 24-25, as part of a farewell tour before he steps down as President after the South African elections expected in May-June of this year. His visit leaves us with a strong visual imprint and warm memories: Mandela during his address to Parliament thanking Canadians for their support; Mandela being inducted into the Order of Canada by the Governor General; and Mandela moving to the strains of South African music before 30,000 admiring school children at the Skydome.



photo: CANAPRESS

Michael Douglas, Hollywood producer/actor and UN Messenger for Peace, who, on September 29, met with Prime Minister Chrétien and Foreign Affairs Minister Axworthy as part of a delegation representing the Middle Powers Initiative (MPI). The MPI is a consortium of seven major international NGOs that helps governments publicize the agenda for nuclear disarmament. The producer of the movie *The China Syndrome* was in town to drum up publicity for the MPI and nuclear disarmament.



photo: CANAPRESS

Mary Robinson, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, who made a six-day visit to Canada, November 22-28, as part of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Mrs. Robinson's visit included stops in St. John's, Ottawa, Montréal, Toronto and Edmonton. She met with Prime Minister Chrétien, Foreign Affairs Minister Axworthy, and other senior government and non-government representatives concerned with human rights issues. She was also keynote speaker and guest of honour at the International Conference on Universal Rights and Human Values and addressed the International Press Freedom of Expression Awards gala organized by the Canadian Committee for the Protection of Journalists.

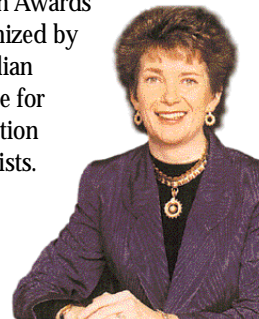


photo: UN



photo: NAC

Canadian Children's Art Exhibition

Launched October 12, 1998, in Ottawa, an exhibition of 50 drawings by Canadian children on what they would do to help protect the rights of people around the world is touring the Caribbean and Central and South America over the next two years. The drawings were selected from more than 700 entries in the National Arts Centre (NAC)'s contest "Imagine You're an Artist: Human Rights Through the Eyes of Our Youth" to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. —

News BRIEFS

FIGHTING ILLICIT DRUGS IN THE HEMISPHERE

Canada has launched a dialogue among the Americas' foreign ministers to promote an integrated and effective approach to dealing with the problem of illicit drugs. The first step of that dialogue is a discussion paper released by Minister Axworthy during his recent trip to Cuba, Jamaica, Mexico and Nicaragua. The paper is a follow-up to the Summit of the Americas meeting in Santiago, Chile, last year, where national leaders called for greater co-operation in tackling this problem. Canada then offered to develop the paper and co-ordinate the dialogue.

Noting that the drug problem is closely linked to social and economic issues, the leaders had called for an integrated strategy, thus recognizing that illicit drugs are more than an enforcement problem; they are also a human security problem. In that light, Canada's discussion paper suggests greater support for health and education programs to reduce demand for drugs, more concerted efforts to develop alternative crops and economic opportunities, and an emphasis on curtailing the flow of small arms into the hands of drug barons.

Foreign ministers are expected to meet to discuss a drug strategy on the margins of this year's June meeting of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Guatemala.

NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY

Canada was among the first countries to ratify, on December 18, the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). The Treaty recognizes that halting all nuclear weapons test explosions, and all other nuclear explosions, constitutes an effective measure of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. It is considered effective because it constrains the development and improvement of nuclear weapons.

A major feature of the CTBT is the Treaty's International Monitoring System (IMS), a global net-

work of 321 monitoring stations and 16 laboratories that will continuously measure shock waves in air, water and rock, as well as changes in atmospheric radioactivity. The IMS will be capable of detecting any nuclear explosion in the atmosphere, underwater or underground, anywhere on earth. Each monitoring station will continuously transmit data back to the International Data Centre in Vienna for collation, analysis and interpretation.

Canada's contribution to the Treaty includes the establishment of a National Authority, which will report to the IMS, and the provision of 15 stations, including seismic, radionuclide, infrasound and hydroacoustic stations, and one radionuclide laboratory.

In addition, Canada will play a key role in organizing a Conference of States for the fall of 1999 to explore ways of facilitating the Treaty's early entry into force.

LANDMINES

Only one year ago, on December 3-4, 1997, 2,400 representatives from 122 countries gathered in Ottawa to sign a historic treaty banning the production, stockpiling, use and export of anti-personnel landmines. Since then, the momentum behind the landmines campaign has continued to grow. The Ottawa Convention has now been ratified by some 55 countries, making it the most rapidly ratified multilateral treaty in history. A total of 133 countries have now signed the convention, which will become international law on March 1, 1999.

So far, over 11-million stockpiled mines in 15 countries were to have been destroyed by the end of 1998. Canada is leading the way in assisting a number of countries to get rid of their landmines. In November, Foreign Minister Axworthy and Minister for International Co-operation Diane Marleau announced that Canada will contribute \$1 million to an International Trust Fund for landmine removal and assistance to mine victims in the former Yugoslavia. The donation goes to the International Trust Fund for De-mining and for the Assistance of Mine Victims in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The contribution is part of \$10 million that the Government has earmarked for mine action in Bosnia from its five-year \$100-million Canadian Landmine Fund.

NOVEMBER 12-15 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) South Africa
The meeting will deal with issues of interest to all Commonwealth member countries and select the next Commonwealth Secretary-General who will succeed Chief Emeka Anyaoku, whose second term of office expires on December 31, 1999. —

Convention Making a Difference?, which chronicles the global progress in the fight against anti-personnel mines in the year since the Convention opened for signature.

For information on Canada's mine actions or to find out how you can help, visit our Web site at www.mines.gc.ca

ANTI-BRIBERY LEGISLATION

On December 17, Canada became the fifth country to ratify the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions, thus ensuring that the Convention will enter into force on February 15, 1999. Canada's ratification of the Convention follows rapid and unanimous approval in Parliament of the Corruption of Foreign Public Officials Act, which creates the new offence of bribery of foreign public officials in the course of business. The offence carries a maximum penalty of five years' imprisonment and qualifies as an extraditable offence.

The Convention will permit OECD and other countries to move in a co-ordinated manner to adopt national legislation making it a crime to bribe foreign public officials. The Convention requires countries to impose dissuasive sanctions and commits them to providing mutual legal assistance.

The 29-member OECD, which includes Canada, the United States, most European countries, Japan and South Korea, is the major economic policy forum for the world's most advanced industrialized democracies.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade has produced two new brochures. *Serving Canadians around the World* is aimed at informing and educating both Canadians and non-Canadians about the Department's people, mandate and activities. The *Lester B. Pearson Building: Where Canada Meets the World* provides a detailed description of the building that has been the Department's headquarters since August 1973. It outlines the history of the Department's search for a permanent home and describes the building's features and services.

Both brochures are available from the Enquiries Service (944-4000 in the National Capital Region or toll free at 1-800-267-8376). They can also be ordered by fax at 1-613-996-9709.

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EVENTS

1999

UN International Year of Older Persons
Worldwide celebration of older persons. For more information, please visit the following Canadian Web site: <http://iyop-aipa.ic.gc.ca>

APRIL 23-25

NATO Summit
Washington D.C., U.S.A.
NATO celebrates its 50th anniversary. Prime Minister Chrétien, Foreign Affairs Minister Axworthy and National Defence Minister Eggleton will attend.
Web site: www.nato.int

JUNE 18-20

25th Annual G-8 Summit
Köln, Germany
Annual meeting of the Heads of State or Government of the eight largest industrialized democracies, at which economic and political issues are discussed in an informal atmosphere.
Web site: www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/english/foreignp/policy.htm

JULY & AUGUST

JULY 23-AUGUST 8
XIIth Pan American Games
Winnipeg, Manitoba
5,000 athletes from 42 countries will participate in the largest celebration of sport and culture ever staged in Canada. The Games are an opportunity to promote new North-South economic partnerships and to showcase Manitoba and Canada as prime locations to do business.
Web site: www.panamgames.org

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 3-5
VIIIth Francophonie Summit
Moncton, New Brunswick
The summit features the Conference of Heads of State and Government using French as a Common Language and provides a forum for meetings of decision-making authorities of the francophone community.
Web site: www.sommet99.org

FALL 1999

FTAA Trade Ministerial Meeting & Americas Business Forum
As part of its duties as Chair of the first 18 months (May 1998 - October 1999) of negotiations toward a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), Canada will host a meeting of trade ministers of the 34 participating countries of the hemisphere to examine progress to date and the next stage of negotiations. At about the same time, the fifth Americas Business Forum will bring together some 3,000 business executives from Latin America and the Caribbean to ensure that the views and concerns of business are incorporated into the trade negotiations process.
Web site: www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/oas

OCTOBER

OCTOBER 6-8
International Conference on Federalism
Mont Tremblant, Quebec
Sponsored by the Committee for a Forum of Federations, the conference will bring together elected and private-sector representatives, civil servants and academics from a large number of federal countries to focus on the challenges posed by the management of federal systems. The goal is to offer policy makers and practitioners of federalism an arena in which to exchange information and compare experiences in order to improve the practice of federalism.
Web site: www.ciff.on.ca

NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 12-15
Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) South Africa
The meeting will deal with issues of interest to all Commonwealth member countries and select the next Commonwealth Secretary-General who will succeed Chief Emeka Anyaoku, whose second term of office expires on December 31, 1999. —

• cont'd from page 15

INTERNSHIPS PROGRAM REVIEW

Since 1997, more than 1,000 young Canadians have gained on-the-job experience in the areas of foreign affairs and international development under the government's Youth International Internship Program. A recent review of the program shows that 31% of the internships were in Europe, 16% in Asia, 15% in the Middle East, 14% in the United States, 12% in Canada, and 12% in other parts of the world. Approximately 78% of the interns found work after completing their internships.

The program is delivered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), the Canadian International Development Agency, Environment Canada, Human Resources Development Canada, Industry Canada and Canadian Heritage.

To find out more about the Youth International Internship Program, please call 1-800-559-2888, or (613) 944-2415 from the National Capital Region. Information is also available on DFAIT's Youth Web site at www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/english/culture/youth/menu.htm

EAST TIMOR

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan met with East Timor activist and Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr. José Ramos-Horta in November to discuss the situation in East Timor. After the meeting, Mr. Axworthy expressed strong Canadian support for the UN talks on East Timor's future and urged "all parties to reach a lasting political resolution." He added that Canada believes "the active participation of the East Timorese themselves is essential to the successful negotiation of such a resolution."

Earlier in 1998, during a visit to Indonesia, Mr. Chan had discussed the East Timor situation and the imprisonment of East Timorese leader Xanana Gusmao with President Bacharuddin Jusuf Habibie and Foreign Affairs Minister Ali Alatas. ●—

Reader's Corner

Starting in our next issue, we would like to give you the opportunity to share your thoughts about the magazine and foreign policy topics. You are therefore invited to send us short letters from which we will extract excerpts. This will be your column. We can't wait to hear from you. Send your letters to the attention of

Reader's Corner



In Our NEXT ISSUE

Our next issue will focus on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which is celebrating its 50th birthday in April 1999. Stories will include an overview of Canada's action within the Alliance, opportunities and challenges for the future, and an essay on the

NATO of the 21 century. Also in our next issue: the entry into legal force of the international Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Landmines and on their Destruction, known as the Ottawa Convention. ●—

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Web site receives more than 4.5 million visits each month. An average of 50,000 documents are viewed each day. Forty percent of our visitors are from the United States, 26% are from Canada, and 34% are from other countries.

Canada's long-standing mission in London obtained full diplomatic status in 1926. Its next official diplomatic mission abroad was opened in Washington in 1927, followed by Paris in 1928, and Tokyo in 1929.

A survey conducted by Goldfarb Consultants in 1998 indicates that 79% of Canadians say they are familiar with the United Nations and that 9 Canadians out of 10 want Canada to play a larger role in it.

The first foreign consulate to be established in Canada was the Consulate of the United States in 1833 in Halifax. The consulate was opened to deal with maritime transportation problems on the east coast and to help solve trade problems between the Atlantic provinces and the New England states. In 1850, several European countries began opening consulates in Montréal and in other major Canadian cities.

Canada's Department of External Affairs was established in 1909. At that time, the Department was under the responsibility of the Secretary of State. From 1912 until 1946, when it became a full-fledged government department, the portfolio was under the authority of the Prime Minister.

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