

**SECURITY COUNCIL OPEN BRIEFING WITH
THE PRESIDENTS OF THE ICTY AND ICTR,
AND THE CHIEF PROSECUTOR OF THE ICTY AND ICTR
NOVEMBER 21, 2000**

Monsieur le Président,

Ma délégation se joint aux autres pour souhaiter la bienvenue aux Présidents Jorda et Pillay, et à la Procureur en chef Del Ponte.

Nous sommes reconnaissants de leurs rapports sur les travaux importants des deux tribunaux ad hoc pour les crimes contre l'humanité.

Canada is a strong supporter of the Tribunals.

We have long believed that they play a crucial role in the promotion of human security, by ending impunity for the most serious crimes known to humankind and therefore creating a lasting foundation for peace.

The existence of the tribunals and progress toward the International Criminal Court serve an important conflict prevention role by demonstrating that war crimes and crimes against humanity will not be allowed to stand, thus helping to deter would-be aggressors.

This past year has brought many changes to both Tribunals.

We have seen a vast improvement in the cooperation by Croatian authorities with the ICTY.

We are also encouraged by the recent announcement that the Chief Prosecutor will be travelling to Belgrade, and that the Office of the Prosecutor in Belgrade will soon be reopened.

This marks an important first step in the process of normalizing relations between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the ICTY.

In this regard, my delegation would be interested in Ms. Del Ponte's views on how changes in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will affect the work of the Tribunal.

Along with these positive developments, however, more effort is required to deliver all indicted war criminals to The Hague.

Canada firmly believes that cooperation from all countries of the former Yugoslavia with the ICTY is essential for justice and reconciliation in the Balkans.

It is unacceptable that individuals who have been publically indicted by the Tribunal continue to be active in politics.

We call on those countries that continue to harbour indictees to transfer them to The Hague.

Mr. President,

Canada is also pleased with the improvement over the past year in relations between the ICTR and the Government of Rwanda.

These relations will no doubt be helped by the announcement of two recent initiatives.

The opening of an ICTR information and documentation centre in Kigali will improve access of the Rwandan people to the work of the Tribunal.

As well, the launch of the Support Programme for Witnesses and Potential Witnesses will provide important services such as legal guidance, psychological counselling, physical rehabilitation and reintegration assistance.

We note that crimes of sexual violence are being addressed in an ever-more comprehensive manner and that reforms have been, and are being, made by both Tribunals to ensure that those who have suffered or witnessed these terrible crimes will be dealt with in a sensitive way.

Over the past year, both Tribunals have taken steps to implement the Expert Group report, in order to improve efficiency and streamline the work of the Tribunals.

These improvements are key to ensuring that the Tribunals' budgets are being used effectively and that the rights of the accused are respected.

To this end, we are supportive of proposals to amend the Statutes of the Tribunals to add

additional ICTR judges to the joint Appeals Chamber, and to create a pool of ad litem judges in the ICTY.

These important initiatives will assist the Tribunals in speeding up the pace of prosecutions, thereby ensuring swifter justice.

In and of themselves, these reforms will accelerate the completion of the mandate of the Tribunal.

The end result is that the Tribunals will finish their work earlier, and therefore save money.

We recommend that these Statutory amendments be adopted as soon as possible.

Les travaux des deux Tribunaux ad hoc ont créé un précédent important et durable en ce qui a trait à la Cour criminelle internationale.

Nous encourageons donc ces deux Tribunaux à continuer d'améliorer leur fonctionnement interne.

De notre côté, nous allons continuer à fournir le soutien et l'assistance dont nous avons fait preuve.

Merci, Monsieur le Président.