

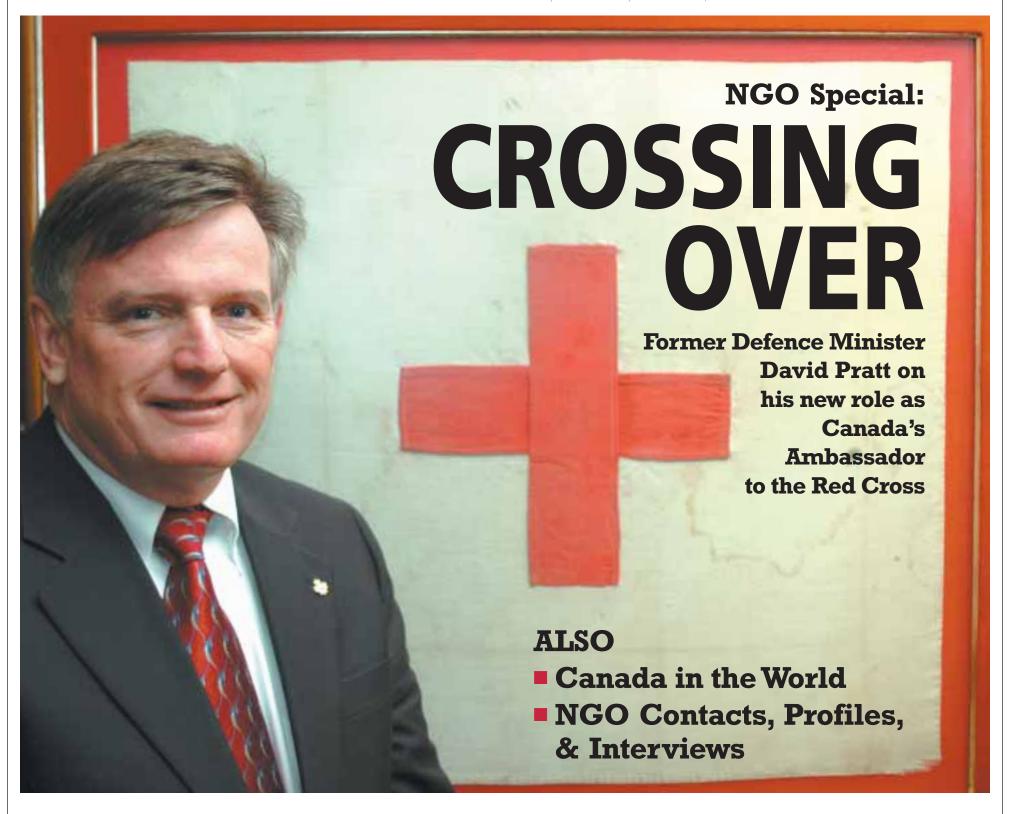




ENBASSY

DIPLOMACY THIS WEEK

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Update: What's inside Canada's International Policy Review?

EMBASSY

Talking Points

On The Cover

This week, *Embassy* explores the world of Canadian NGOs and the work they perform internationally. Among our profiled subjects is **David Pratt**, former Defence Minister and current Canadian ambassador to the Red Cross. To read Sarah McGregor's interview, please see page 9. The cover photograph was taken on Nov. 19 by *Embassy*'s own director of developing, Tom Hillman.

CIDA Contracts

CIDA is looking to expand the number of bilateral program contracts it awards through Consulting and Audit Canada, according to Mark Mostovac, the agency's manager of External Business Relations. Currently, CIDA desk officers are supposed to first consider Standing Offer Agreements from individuals, businesses and NGOs in order to fulfil a good or service requirement. However, SOAs are time-consuming and expensive to complete for competitors, and often expire after three years without so much as a phone call, he says. The agency is exploring whether to hire CAC, a government consulting body, to manage more contracts."We want effective contracting tools so with a minimum burden we can contract in a transparent way," he says.

War Resisters

American soldiers resisting the war in Iraq are stepping onto Canadian soil in hopes of finding refuge from what they consider to be a senseless battle. The War Resisters Support Campaign began in earnest in April,2004 in order to aid three war deserters seeking refugee status in Canada. NDP leader Jack Layton, NDP MP **Libby Davies**, and former Liberal MP Carolyn Parrish have expressed political support for the movement, according to campaign spokesperson, Lee Zaslofsky. As many as 50,000 draft dodgers entered Canada from the U.S. between 1965 and 1973, according to the War Resisters Campaign. American soldier in Canada **Jeremy Hinzman** began three days of hearings before the immigration and refugee board on Dec. 6. He has argued that the U.S. is violating international law by waging an illegal war.

Economic Drivers

Internationally focussed NGOs comprised just 0.2 per cent of the total activity in the nonprofit sector in 2003, according to Statistics Canada. Sports and recreation organizations had the highest level of voluntary activity (20.9 per cent), followed by religious institutions (19 per cent) and social services (11.8 per cent). A total of 161,000 nonprofit and voluntary organizations were operating across the country in 2003. "Nonprofit and voluntary organizations posted \$112 billion in revenues in 2003 - a considerable presence in the economy," says the report. Authors Ian Smillie and Larry Minear, in their book The Charity of Nations, write that spending on peace initiatives worldwide by governments, public donors and NGOs has increased in recent years. They write, "Since the fall of the Berlin Wall and the winding down of the Cold War, humanitarianism has become a big business, now involving some \$10 billion annually".

Switzerland To Join EU?



PHOTOGRAPH BY ROSALEEN DICKSON, EMBASS

After a brief history lesson on Switzerland, Ambassador Anton Thalmann's luncheon address to Ottawa Rotarians Nov. 29 centered on the reasons why Switzerland is not in the European Union, and the reasons why it may soon join. Switzerland has entered into numerous formal and complex agreements with the European Union, yet still is not a member. The decision to join will eventually be taken by referendum. Thalmann said that economically, the pros and cons were tied. He also explained some aspects of the Schengen Treaty by which the EU and Switzerland agree on a passport-free zone, paving the way for the taxation of savings deposits and allowing Switzerland to maintain its banking secrecy.

CIDA's Canada Corps

The Canadian International Development Agency is the lead department for the Canada Corps. This decision, confirmed by Foreign Affairs Minister **Pierre Pettigrew** before a Commons committee last week, is consistent with FAC's practice of not administering big budget programs. International Cooperation Minister **Aileen Carroll** is already managing the two-year \$15 million budget with "stakeholder consultation" being undertaken before the first overseas mission gets underway. Prime Minister **Paul Martin** announced last month that Canadian legal experts will travel to Vietnam next year to help bolster the judicial system as part of a Canada Corps program.

Order Of Canada

The Dec. 10 Order of Canada investiture will include peace and disarmament activists. The Governor General announced last week that the executive director of Project Ploughshares, Ernie Regehr, will be named an Officer. New Members of the Order include scientist Norman Alcock, a founder of the former Canadian Peace Research Institute, and Ian Smillie, an international expert on conflict diamonds, former executive director of CUSO and co-founder of Inter Pares. Others who will be invested as Officers include historian David Bercuson, director of the Centre for Military and Strategic Studies at the University of Calgary; and Arthur DeFehr, a former UN High Commissioner for Refugees to Somalia and founder of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

Libya Trip

Prime Minister **Paul Martin** will travel to Tripoli, Libya Dec. 18-21. This will be the third ministerial visit to the country, following in the footsteps of Liberal MPs **David Kilgour** in 2002 and **Denis Paradis** last year. Foreign Affairs Minister **Pierre Pettigrew** also indicated strengthened relations on August 12 by appointing **David Viveash** as Ambassador to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. Prior to the announcement, the ambassador to Tunisia had been cross-accredited to Tripoli.

Paying the Price

The world's wealthiest nations are devoting only half the amount of development assistance as they did in 1960, according to a new report by Oxfam Canada. Paying the Price calls on developed nations, particularly G7 countries, to increase their level of aid by \$50 billion and cancel debts owed by the poorest nations. For Canada, it would mean boosting official development assistance by \$1.53 billion US through 2015. The organization also demands Canada forgive \$67.04 million U.S. in debt owed by 32 nations within the next 10 years."The world has never been wealthier, yet rich nations are giving less and less," says Rieky Stuart, executive director of Oxfam Canada. "People are dying while leaders delay debt relief and aid."

China Bound

Human rights advocates gathered outside the Canada-China Business Council 2004 gala dinner in Toronto Dec. 6, to protest an announcement that Prime Minister **Paul Martin** and Trade Minister **Jim Peterson** will visit China next month. During the January trip, which also includes stops in Japan, India and Hong Kong, the PM will meet President **Hu Jintao**, Premier **Wen Jiabao** and other senior leaders. Amnesty International reports that the Chinese government has done little to follow through on a promise to reform the judicial system, which uses techniques of torture and execution.

The Split

It's official. The Ministers of International Trade and Foreign Affairs each introduced legislation in the House of Commons on Dec. 7, severing the departments one year after the prime minister announced the split. Trade Minister **Jim Peterson** introduced the Department of International Trade Act, which sets out the power, duties and functions of the ITCan. Foreign Affairs Minister **Pierre Pettigrew** shed power by amending the current DFAIT act so that trade duties are no longer his responsibility.

Outer Space



PHOTOGRAPH BY ROSALEEN DICKSON, EMBASSY

"The missile defence program will not fade away any time soon," former US Ambassador Jonathan Dean, (left) told his Press Club audience Dec.6 while in Ottawa to deliver an open letter on missile defence to the Prime Minister. The letter provides background material and explains some potential consequences of the missile defence program. Mr. Dean's letter proposes several solutions to the space weapons dilemma including a code of conduct in space and an Outer Space Treaty for all countries to consider. He said that governments with nuclear arms potential will need to get together and neutralize their arsenals."It is in the interest of all nations to avoid the weaponization of space," he concluded.

Remembering Bhopal

On December 2 1984, a cloud of poisonous gas leaked from the American Union Carbide pesticide plant in Bhopal, India killing thousands immediately and thousands more over the years. Canadian filmmakers Peter Raymont and Lindalee Tracey screened their recent documentary Bhopal: The Search for Justice at the Ottawa Public Library on Dec. 2, reminding viewers of the victims' continuing health affects, how this sort of event could reoccur due to double standards of safety practices, and the parallels between Bhopal and Sept 11, 2001. Mr. Raymont was joined by McGill University pharmacology professor Daya Varma, Amnesty International's Cheryl Hodgkiss and South Asia partnership's Richard Harmston in a post-film discussion, answering the audience's questions on legal issues, the Indian government's carelessness, and the silence of the international science community.

UK Trade Minister Visits



PHOTOGRAPH BY JAKE WRIGHT, EMBASS

A senior British trade official, **Douglas Alexander** (top right), is in Ottawa this week to deliver a Wednesday morning briefing at the Foreign Affairs department on the subject of Britain's economic vision for 2005. Mr. Alexander was appointed Minister of State for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs in September of this year. On Dec. 7, the minister dropped by for an impromptu interview and briefing at the *Embassy/Hill Times* editorial offices.

Selective Memories

A small group of protestors appeared at the Japanese Embassy on Sussex Drive Dec. 7, carrying signs announcing "Pearl Harbor, December 7: apologize and pay" and "No Japan on the Security Council". Japan is joining Germany India and Brazil in sending a joint resolution to the UN Security Council to amend the UN Charter and expand membership on the council, which is now composed of five permanent and 10 nonpermanent members. The date commemorated by the Ottawa protestors, Dec. 7, 1941, signifies the Japanese bombing of Hawaii which took 2,400 American lives. Other dates - not mentioned in the protest — include the March 10, 1945 American firebombing of Tokyo which took 100,000 Japanese civilian lives and the U.S. nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August, 1945, which killed more than 103,000 Japanese civilians.

CORRECTION

The correct spelling of the name of the Benedictine nun and author quoted in Dec.1's editorial is Joan Chittister. Her columns regularly appear at ncronline.org. Also, the same issue's "Diplomatic Circles" should have read that Mr. Yaw Asa Yirenkyi of the Ghana High Commission served in Nigeria from 1988 to 1992.

Burmese Brawl in Rights Committee

By Sarah McGregor and Jim Creskey

sking Canada's help for Burma's tortured democracy, the country's prime minister In exile appeared as a witness at a parliamentary subcommittee last week. The PM was Dr. Sein Win and the committee was the House Subcommittee on Human Rights, chaired by MP David Kilgour. Dr. Sein Win's Dec. 1 testimony followed the announcement two days earlier that Burma's ruling military junta has placed opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi under an additional year of house arrest. Ms. Suu Kyi, (whose name is pronounced "Soo Chee") has been in detention for nine of the past 15 years.

Despite a brief squabble between Conservative and Bloc members of the subcommittee, an admirable display of all-party collegiality guided the subcommittee to the unanimous approval of a motion calling for the release of Ms. Soo Kyi, the support of Burmese democracy and a promise to tighten up economic sanctions.

Dr. Sein Win told the subcommittee that sanctions, which would presumably apply to companies like Canadian mining giant Ivanhoe, would be helpful to the democratic movement by cutting off funds which largely go to the military dictators. "Nothing can be worse than where we are now," he said.

Meanwhile, down the hall at the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs was having trouble with the Bloc Quebecois motion calling for economic sanctions against Burma's junta and offering support for the democratically elected government in exile. Only minutes before Liberal MP Don Boudria helped save the day at the subcommittee meeting by introducing changes that would get the exact same motion passed.

At the full standing committee, Dan McTeague and fellow Liberal Lawrence MacAulay voted against the Bloc motion, saying it breaks government tradition - and that of the Canada's major trading partners - for elected officials to express support on partisan grounds. "We want to maintain the same line we always held: We recognize the country, but not the party," said Mr. McTeague. "Recognition of a government or party is without precedent."

After a heated 25-minute debate, the two Liberal MPs shot down the motion. Bloc Quebecois MPs Francine Lalonde, Pierre Paquette, Conservative members Kevin Sorenson and Ted Menzies and NPD MP Alexa McDonough voted in favour. Ms. McDonough, the NDP foreign affairs critic, accused Mr. McTeague of taking orders on his Blackberry from ministerial staffers. In an interview with Embassy, she said Mr. McTeague "threw a curve ball" by attempting to water down the motion, calling the Liberal MP "weak-kneed."

At issue for Mr. McTeague was a paragraph that read: "provide tangible political support to the legitimate authorities in Burma, specifically the government in exile... and the Committee Representing the People's Parliament." Mr. McTeague repeatedly argued this statement violated a government custom that has never recognized other countries' political parties.

Ms. Lalonde, vice-chair of the committee and the MP who sponsored the motion, rebuked Mr. McTeague's concerns. She said that Canada has



Exiled Burmese PM, Dr. Sein Win

diplomatic ties with the repressive military regime that controls the country by force, meaning it already recognizes a political faction. Ambassador U.Aye is fully accredited to lead the Myanmar Embassy in Ottawa, working in cooperation with Foreign Affairs and other government departments. Canada's Ambassador to China, Joseph Caron, is the government appointee in Myanmar. "I think it's regrettable because the position that Mr. McTeague was defending is not defendable. It meant that Canada will let other countries support the government in exile. And (just) be happy with the fact... there is an embassy in Ottawa where the junta in Burma is represented in here," Ms. Lalonde said, in an interview with Embassy.

Shortly before the controversy broke out at the Foreign Affairs Committee, in a different office of the West Block the subcommittee gave unanimous approval to the Boudria-amended version of the same motion, that called for a review of trade rules. Conservative MP Stockwell Day then raced down the hall to introduce this new amendment to the standing committee. The allparty group, chaired by Liberal MP Bernard Patry, unanimously agreed to this amendment.

Even still, Mr. McTeague stated he would not accept the full motion without removing the reference to political support. In a last-ditch attempt to quell his dissent, Ms. McDonough introduced a sub-amendment - which was eventually adopted in the final wording - to remove the word "political" from the clause. The motion then read: "provide tangible support to the legitimate authorities in Burma....' This revision did not win over Mr. McTeague.

Because the motion was passed "on division" it will not become an official vote. Nor will the final motion be tabled in parliament because the MP who introduced it didn't specifv that action."It could be just something they forgot," says Mr. Patry, by way of explanation.

Foreign Affairs says it is against government policy to support political parties. "We must recognize states and not governments," says Foreign Affairs spokesperson Kimberly Phillips. She says the government has no plan to put in place economic sanctions without further support from other nations."We believe that unilateral sanctions are generally ineffective. And no international organization of which Canada is a member has called for the imposition of sanctions," she says.

Canada is the second largest investor in Burma, according to 2001 statistics outlined in the Burma Forum Report of November 2004. The report cites an estimate by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives that shows Canadian corporations have invested more than \$150 million in Burma since the military regime took power in the early'90s. Canada's Ivanhoe Mines is one of the largest investors according to the Burma Forum Canada.

GWYNNE DYER

United Nations Reform

"If the

world's

greatest

power turns

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permanently,

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future."

Tnited Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan's plan for UN reform, unveiled on Dec. 2, was a brave attempt to square the circle, but it will not work. It acknowledged the Bush administration's strident demands for changes at the UN accommodated a few of them, and proposed a new UN structure that will appeal to those who are really fed up with the organization: the non-Western, non-great power majority of the members. But it will not appeal to Mr. Bush, and he has the power to thwart it.

Mr. Bush spends a lot of time criticizing the UN, but he will not be satisfied by reforms that just make it a more effective or representative institution; what he wants is one that obediently supports U.S. strategies and policies. Since the whole style of his administration is unilateralist, and the UN is multilateralist by definition, he is not going to get what he wants so very few of the 101 reforms proposed by the High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change are actually going to happen. He won't mind: a genuinely committed and activist UN is not in his administration's interest.

Mr. Bush was at it again last Wednesday on his visit to Canada. "The objective of the UN and other institutions

must be collective security, not endless debate," he said, adding that it must be "more than a League of Nations." The rhetoric echoed what he said last year before the U.S. invasion of Iraq, and the implication was that the UN had failed by not supporting America's attack on that country, but the UN didn't fail. The United States wanted to invade a country that had not attacked it, and the UN Security Council refused to endorse that attack, which made it illegal under international law (as Kofi Annan admits when pressed very hard).

The Security Council could not condemn the United States because the U.S. has a veto, and nobody could stop the invasion because the UN has never been able to coerce the great powers. But the UN did its job, which was to consider the legitimacy of the U.S. case for an immediate attack and find it wanting. So poor Kofi Annan, who was originally Washington's candidate for the job of Secretary-General, found himself trapped between his sponsor and the institution he served.

His response, a classic bureaucratic manoeuvre, was to appoint a panel that would report on how to reform the UN and make it more effective. To raise the odds on a favourable response by the Bush administration, he appointed Brent Scowcroft, a former National Security Adviser to President George H.W. Bush, to the panel. To get support from the rest of the planet, he proposed the expansion of the Security Council. Neither move will succeed.

Expanding the Security Council is a good

way to placate large countries in the developing world who don't see why the Security Council should be virtually a Western monopoly: Four of the five veto-wielding "Permanent Members" that dominate the Security Council are Western countries who gained their special status at a time when most non-Western peoples lived in colonial servitude. Unfortunately, the idea of adding some new permanent members to the Security Council breaks down over the details.

Nobody can agree on which countries should become new permanent members. Should Portuguese-speaking Brazil be Latin America's candidate, or is Spanish-speaking Mexico more representative? Should South Africa, the continent's richest country, or Nigeria, its most populous, be Africa's permanent member? Which Muslim country should get a permanent seat? Handing out vetoes to new permanent members would just paralyze the Security Council, but why should China have a veto if India doesn't?

The expansion proposals open many cans of worms and do not win Kofi Annan much support from the intended beneficiaries -

while the panel's thoughts on making it easier to intervene in countries that abuse their own citizens are unlikely to win over the United States either. It is "pre-emptive" intervention in countries that allegedly pose some threat to the United States that interests the Bush administration, and UN approval for that would still have to come by means of a Security Council vote that the U.S. would not necessarily win.

The disdain and outright hostility towards the UN that now threaten the institution will not be ended by the changes that Kofi Annan and his panel are recommending, though they would be useful enough in their own right. Nothing will do much good so long as the Bush administration sees the United Nations and the whole structure of international law as irritating constraints on the exercise of US power; pandering to Washington's wishes would just further alienate the key group of countries in th developing world that have already grown deeply impatient with Western domination of the Security Council.

The wise men have laboured long and thought deeply, and their 101 recommendations for change are mostly sensible and in some cases long overdue. Debating them will give the delegations at the UN something to do while they wait to hear their fate — but their fate is being decided elsewhere, above all in the United States, and it will probably be years before we know the outcome. If the world's greatest power turns against the UN permanently, then it does not have a future.

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Among the **Believers**

The Harvard University 2004 Nieman Conference on Narrative Journalism, held last weekend at a hotel adjacent to the Harvard campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts, was notably devoid of pro-Republican sentiment. From the opening keynote address, delivered by Seymour Hersh, the journalist whose reporting of the My Lai massacre and its subsequent cover-up garnered a Pulitzer Prize in 1970, the tone of the seminar was rueful, activist, and resolute. Convening one month after the U.S. election which delivered a second term to George W. Bush, and in the midst of an ever-deepening morass in Iraq, the assembled writers, editors, and broadcasters returned again and again to the themes laid out by Mr. Hersh in his opening remarks: Iraq in 2004 resembles nothing so much as Vietnam in 1964, and the personnel occupying the Executive Branch of the U.S. government are ideologues bent on imposing their own particular vision on the world, facts notwithstanding.

The anguish expressed in the meeting rooms of this year's event was something entirely new; as a Canadian, I was struck by the pervasive tone of worry and mistrust of official sources that saturated the sessions. There were the routine displays of ego and accomplishment that accompany any assemblage of talented people, but the bragging was offset this year by a collective sense of what can only be described as dread, dread of what the next few years hold in store in Iraq and at home. It is no exaggeration to characterize the three-day gathering as an extended bout of soul-searching: 'how did we allow this war to happen? Why didn't we report misinformation about the WMDs sooner? How can we do our jobs better?' were the questions that recurred.

That the keynote speakers included Mr. Hersh, Norman Mailer, and Daniel Ellsberg goes a long way toward explaining the tenor of the proceedings. Mr. Mailer, a raging, almost evangelical presence on the dais, appeared as a liberal lion in winter, reminding the audience of his most golden decade, the 1960s, when he helped set in motion a national debate with books such as The Armies of the Night and Why Are We In Vietnam? Mr. Ellsberg, the former government official who leaked the Pentagon Papers, spoke of his greatest regret: that he did not act sooner, before more lives were lost.

Throughout the proceedings, there were moments of ironic humour and professional generosity, as acknowledged masters answered questions and dispensed advice to the scores of interns and young reporters who packed the auditoriums; by the end of the weekend, a kind of calm had settled over the attendees. Filing out of the concluding address, an elegiac, deeply humanist digression on the nature of social justice and personal resilience delivered by Robert Coles, there seemed to be a new mood emerging. Three days of mourning John Kerry's unexpected defeat and sifting through the ashes of Vietnam with an eye on Iraq had given way to a renewed sense of purpose: to tell the truth, tell it well, and take courage in a job well done. Journalism is a craft, and at its best, it is also a faith based on a belief in the power of accumulated facts.

Liberals are routinely called on the carpet by conservatives for their sense of moral superiority and self-satisfaction; there can be abundant truth in this criticism. Yet liberalism, at its best, draws strength from humility, and authority from compassion. At the 2004 Nieman conference, it was possible to see the spirit of American liberalism get up from the mat, shake itself off, and prepare to fight the good fight. Where the story goes from here is anybody's guess, but the believers at the Nieman are sounding anything but defeated.

– Peter Schneider

Letters

The New Switzerland?

enjoyed very much his reflections on the diverging paths that Canada and the U.S. are taking regarding morality and the State ("A different path for Canada," Dec. 1).

Although making historical parallels is always risky, I feel we are like France and Switzerland in the XVII century. When France exiled Protestants, it lost enormous

ongratulations to Jim Creskey! I amounts of wealth and progress to the open societies in Switzerland, the Netherlands and some German principalities

I am certain that many progressive Americans will move to Canada in the coming years to evade the growing moral intolerance that has risen south of our border.

> **Felipe Morales** Montreal, Quebec

RICHARD GWYN

Stop Being Smug

we are not

Europeans.

We are

North

n a few months, of the three journalists in the United States with the greatest influence upon public opinion, two will be Canadians. Peter Jennings already occupies that extraordinarily powerful position as news anchor at ABC-TV. The leading candidate to succeed Dan Rather at CBS is J. D. Roberts, formerly a host at CTV. The reverse simply could not happen here. Since our market is small, this is defensible. But it's highly unlikely that any American could be hired now for any on-air post in Canadian

radio or television. There's a reason for making this compari"For a start, son, aside from my personal interest in it.

Recently, a cottage industry has developed here that's devoted to identifying cross-border differ-The most ences. notable example is Michael Americans." pollster Adams' best-seller Fire And Ice. The topic

came up constantly in the final debate of The Greatest Canadian television series, CBC-TV ran a documentary on the subject in its Continental Divide series, and it's a favourite theme in newspaper and magazine articles. Spotting Canadian-American differences has become the equivalent of a national truffle hunt. Except that all the cross-border differences that get searched for so assiduously and are then described so lovingly, have a common quality. They all show Canadians as better than Americans.

Thus, as Adams sees us in Fire And Ice, we are tolerant, inclusive, nonracist, non-sexist, non-homophobic. caring and sharing, kinder and gentler, egalitarian, peaceable, deeply concerned about the environment and equally deeply concerned about the poor, both in the world as well as in our own country. The CBC-TV documentary repeated this mantra and praised us as "Europeans." God, the world is lucky to have us in it.

For a start, we are not Europeans. We are North Americans. On almost all social indices, from income inequalities to crime rates, we are much closer to the U.S. than to any state in Europe. While we are more cautious inhabitants of the New World than Americans, we have absorbed fully the continent's unique qualities of expansiveness, optimism and comfort with change, as well as a naïveté about human nature. The ambition and daring of our immigration/multiculturalism project, which is transforming the nature of what it is to be Canadian, could only be undertaken by a New World nation.

There are two principal negative

consequences to our obsession with cataloguing every example of our moral superiority to Americans. We really see America less and less because most often we now look at it to verify our superiority. We are at risk of losing our passport as the world's best interpreter of U.S. behaviour, attitudes, styles and policies. Thus, Adams cites the ghettos in New York, Chicago. Los Angeles, in contrast to their absence here. In fact, Harlem, at least, is significantly less dysfunctional than it used to be. But we, also, have ghettos

of urban native peoples, the largest and most troubled being that in Winnipeg. Indeed, the overall condition of native people south of the border is probably a bit better than of those in Canada.

So much for our endless self-congratulations about our caring and sharing natures.

Here's the truly negative consequence of this new obsession: The comparison that counts is with ourselves. By constantly looking at the U.S. to see where we are better, we avoid looking at ourselves.

Take the environment, for example. Sure, we signed the Kyoto Protocol, but our overall environmental regulation is less stringent than America and we're responsible for the worst environmental crime in the continent's history: the destruction of the Atlantic cod fishery. On regulation of corporations, any comparisons should leave us cringing. We have no equivalent of the crusading New York Attorney-General Eliot Spitzer, we have no shareholder suits against corporate robbers, and the Ontario Securities Commission is like a rabbit compared to the bulldog of the Securities Exchange Commission (if at times it's a fat and sleepy bulldog). We were shocked and appalled that American's recently re-elected George W. Bush. Far less noticed is that theirs was a real election, with passion and commitment and so a rise in voting while our last election was banal and trite (essentially an auction with all parties bidding to heave more money at health care) and with more voters than ever turned off.

The phenomenon is by no means wholly negative. To "dare" to compare ourselves to the Americans bespeaks a new Canadian confidence in ourselves. It's time now to really get confident. This means, surely, being unafraid to acknowledge that we can learn some lessons from south of the border. Also, that being better than ourselves is all that really counts. And, above all, that it's time to stop being so smug.

DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES

By Christina Leadlay





Eduardo J. Tejera (left) will officially succeed Eduardo Fernandez as Ambassador of the Dominican Republic on Dec. 8. Trisari Dyah Paramita (right) is the new Third Secretary at the embassy of Indonesia.

mportant staff changes have recently taken place at the Embassy of the Dominican Republic in Canada. Ambassador **Eduardo** Fernández Pichardo has departed from Ottawa, having completed his term as Ambassador. Interestingly, Mr. Fernández has a prior connection to Canada. It was in Montreal, Quebec were he studied commerce at Loyola College, graduating in 1959. He also attended McGill University, working towards certification in the Quebec Order of Chartered Accountants and the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants. Mr. Fernández continued to live in Montreal from 1959 to 1964, working with Price Waterhouse as a staff accountant. He eventually returned to Dominican Republic and joined the Central Romana Corporation, working in the financial and administrative areas and holding titles including Controller and Vice President of Finance. He co-founded Fernández, Pellerano and Associates, which would go on to become one of the country's leading financial consulting firms. From 1978 to 1980, Mr. Fernández served

in numerous important roles simultaneously, including Governor of the Dominican Republic Central Bank, President of the Monetary Board of the Dominican Republic, Governor for the Dominican Republic of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the Inter American Development Bank. He also served as President and CEO of Rosario Dominicana, a state-owned gold mine, a position which he would return to in 1986. The 1980s continued to be very busy for Mr. Fernández, as he served for a short time as Executive Vice President for Banco Popular Dominicano, and then in 1985 sat as Board Chairman of the Corporación Dominicana de Electricidad for one year. Throughout the 1990s he worked with Deloitte and Touche and Fernandez, Santos and Gonzalez as an advisory partner, as well as serving on the boards of directors for various companies and non-governmental organizations. He was appointed to head the Dominican Republic's mission in Canada in January 2001.

Mr. Fernández's successor is Dr. Eduardo J.

Tejera y Curbelo. An economist and businessman by training, Dr. Tejera completed his Ph.D. at the American University in Washington, D.C., specializing in money and banking, international economics and fiscal policy throughout his academic career. In 1972, Dr. Tejera began working with the Dominican Republic's Central Bank as Deputy Manager and Economic Advisor. Two years later, he simultaneously began working as a company financier for the Coprisa Financial Institution, and as Chairman and CEO for Consultoría Económica y Financiera, maintaining these roles until 1990 and the present, respectfully. In 1976, Dr. Tejera left the Central bank and became President of the Constructora Moderna construction company and a year later became Chairman of the Board and CEO of Bank de Desarrollo Finade, once again maintaining both titles until around 1990. Dr. Tejera served as Vice-President for Hotel Villas Doradas in Puerto Plata from 1980 to 1984. Halfway through his term there, he began advising President Dr. Salvador Jorge Blanco on economic affairs until 1986, and during this

time accompanied the President on trade and investment promotion missions to Asia, the United States and most of Latin America. Always happy to serve in numerous positions at one, Dr. Tejera held the office of Executive Director for the Dominican Centre for the Promotion of Exports for three years, starting in 1983. In 1986, he served as President of Hotel Los Almendros until 1993. Another Chairmanship beckoned Dr. Tejera in 1990, this time with Gestora de Capitales Sofisa, which he has maintained until the present. In 1995 he took on his fourth experience as Chairman and CEO with Constructora Sofisa and one year later became Director and Shareholder of cement company Cementos Colón. From 1998 to 2001, Dr. Tejera served as country manager and local representative for Enron Corporation. He then went to Quebec City in 2001 representing his country as Ambassador and Economic Advisor to the summit meeting of Presidents and Heads of State of the Americas. Dr. Tejera subsequently served as a member of the Dominican delegation to the World Trade Organization in Doha, Qatar later that year, and in 2002 went once again to the summit meeting of Presidents and Heads of State, accompanying the Dominican Republic's president as ambassador and economic advisor. Throughout his career, Dr. Tejera has published numerous books on economics. He recently arrived in Ottawa and will present his letters of credentials to the Governor General on December 8, officially becoming the Dominican Republic's ambassador to Canada.

The embassy of Indonesia has a new Third Secretary Her name is Trisari Dyah Paramita and she arrived in Ottawa almost four months ago. Mrs. Paramita, 31, studied political and social science at the department of international relations at the University of Padjajaran in Bandung, Indonesia, receiving her degree in 1997. She joined her homeland's Department of Foreign Affairs two year later. Mrs. Paramita's first position was of Attaché, working in the USA and Canada affairs section of the Americas directorate. During this time, in 2000, she took a diplomatic course through the Department of Foreign Affairs. In 2002, Mrs. Paramita was promoted to Third Secretary and continued to work with American affairs. One year later, she completed a post-graduate program through the faculty of political and social science at the University of Indonesia. Earlier this year, Mrs. Paramita was assigned to her first overseas posting to Canada. She has been serving as Third Secretary at the embassy of Indonesia in Ottawa since August 15.



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Letter From Uganda

A young Canadian woman writes home about her work with Médecins Sans Frontières in an African country riven by civil war

By Asha Gervan

'n August of 2002, I returned home to Canada after finishing a graduate degree in Political Science in the UK. As I faced the prospect of joining the full-time work-force, I found myself more and more drawn to the NGO sector. After travelling on and off for years, I really wanted to combine my love of new places with my passion for international affairs, and figured that working for an international non-governmental organization would be a good place to start. My family has long admired and supported the work of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), so on a whim I checked out their website. A few weeks and two interviews later I joined the fundraising team at the MSF office in Toronto, and have never looked back.

After a year in the Toronto office I was itching to go the field. With the support of the fantastic team there, I was able to find a placement as the human resources and finance administrator in Lira, Northern Uganda. I did a crash course in bookkeeping and starting reading anything that I could get my hands on about Ugandan history and politics. What I found out shocked me.

For the past eighteen years Northern Uganda has suffered an internal conflict that has resulted in the displacement of more than 1.6 million people. In Lira district, where I would be working, over eighty per cent of the rural population is now living in internally displaced people's camps. Most of those living in the camps have been exposed to extreme violence, particularly the young people - many of whom are former abductees - having been taken from their homes and forced to work as child soldiers or sex slaves. Many people have never had access to health care, and mortality rates in the camps are astonishing.

Armed with this information, I set off, first for Amsterdam for briefing at the MSF head office, and then for Uganda, where I would spend the next nine months. What follows is an excerpt from my first email home:

Uganda is a land of paradox. It is a beautiful country, lush, green, flat in bits, mountainous in other bits, and although I have only seen a small part of it, I am very impressed so far. At the same time it is a terrible country. Terrible for those who were unlucky enough to be born in



Asha Gervan (left) with members of one of the thousands of families affected by the long-running conflict inside Uganda, which has displaced more than 1.6 million people over the course of the past 18 years, with no end in sight.

the north. Terrible because for many years these people have been displaced, with no immediate hope for change.

Lira town, where I am based, is a mediumsized African town, with a population that is unnaturally inflated right now due to large numbers of IDPs(internally-displaced persons) who have migrated here to avoid rebel fighting in the north. In Lira, there are small markets, busy streets, and lots of little bars and restaurants that sell warmish beer, fried chicken and delicious greasy chapattis. We can get all the basics that we need here, and have a great garden that keeps us with fresh fruits and vegetables. Our compound is quite nice with a large yard and shady verandas. The weather is lovely: hot during the day, but with a nice wind and cooler temperatures in the evening. The skies are clear and blue, and there are incredible stars at night.

Just a few hours north, life in the IDP camps is much different. People depend on food distributions because insecurity makes it impossible for them to cultivate their fields. For them, there is no varied diet. Thousands of huts are cramped together, and hygiene conditions are appalling. Originally the IDPs had 3-4 huts per family scattered over their land. Now, an average of 6 people share a hut that is smaller than my bedroom at home. Social structures have fallen apart, and domestic violence, suicide attempts and alcoholism have become the norm.

Incredibly the main killers in the camps are malaria and diarrhea, diseases that are easy to prevent and to treat with simple measures such as clean water, proper hygiene, basic drugs and the use of mosquito nets. The situation in the camps is sad, but I feel that we make a difference, with clinics providing good, quality health care at no cost. It makes you realize how much we take for granted with regards to health at home.

Our projects: In Lira we have a huge 350 bed Therapeutic Feeding Centre that treats malnourished children. We also have six fixed clinics in more remote areas of Lira district that are based in IDP camps. Two expats and a team of national staff spend Monday-Friday in the camps to run the clinics, living and working amidst an IDP population that continues to suffer greatly.

The team here is huge; 15 expats right now in Lira, and another 14 at our project in Pader (2 hours North). The team is great, and most of us will be here in until March, giving us the luxury of continuity, and a chance to really get to know one another. We represent over nine countries, and all get along very well, especially considering that we live, work, eat and breath together.

Everyone probably works too much. On a

good day I wake up at 6:00am when the bells in the church across the street start ringing (there seem to be a LOT of bells in Lira). At 6:15 I head out for a run, which has not been as embarrassing as I anticipated. People do laugh at me, but at least the kids don't chase me around. Then I shower, eat and am at the office by around 7:30am. That's on a good day. On Monday and Saturday, the most insane days of the week, I have to be at the office by 7:00am to cope. I generally manage to knock off by 6:00pm, but many are at the office until much later.

But we have fun as well. We had a huge party on Saturday night with all of our national staff and expat friends from other NGOs to say goodbye to a few people who were coming to the end of their contracts. About 300 people turned up and we ate goat, laughed a lot and danced in the pouring rain. Sundays (our only day off) we spend in the 'pool', a small pit that we dug in the backyard, line with a tarp and fill with water.

My job is about 75per cent human resource management. 25 per cent financial administration. When I finished my first payroll I came to the startling realization that we have 251 staff on contract and at least an additional 50 daily workers. No wonder I am so tired! After counting out all of their salaries by hand I bought my fantastic assistant Joyce, a Fanta and some cassava chips (giant french fries, delicious!), and made her promise never to leave me. As often as possible I visit the fixes sites, which gives me the chance to see our work first-hand and to get to know the staff. In essence, I am a professional organizer, and I know that any of you who have seen the state of my bedroom at home might find that rather ironic.

All in all I am having a wonderful, challenging time. I have seen some sad things, but this is a place of great hope as well, and I feel strongly that the North will someday thrive. It is sometimes frustrating to realize that despite the enormous scope of this project, there is so much more to be done, but I suppose that you feel that way during every mission. At the end of the day I feel really good about what I am doing, where I am, and who I'm with. MSF is doing amazing work here, and I'm happy and honoured to be apart of it.

– Asha Gervan is MSF's Financial and Administrative Coordinator in Lira, Uganda, where she will remain until June 2005.

Book Review

On the Frontlines of Courage

Hope In Hell: Inside the World of Doctors Without Borders

By Dan Bortolotti Firefly Books 304 pp., \$35.00

oronto-based journalist Dan Bortolotti has written a balanced and thoughtful history of Médicins Sans Frontières, the international humanitarian agency known popularly in North America as 'Doctors Without Borders.'Tracing the organization's evolution from its formation by a group of French doctors in 1971 through to its present-day role as one of the world's most renowned independent relief operations, Hope In Hell documents the experiences of front-line volunteers and brings their experiences into focus. Bortolotti expands upon the common perception of aid workers as tireless saints, and explores the many ways in which the work they perform changes them — this is a book which is unafraid to dissect the tremendous toll exerted by working for long periods of time in unpredictable and dangerous locations far from home and family.

Hope in Hell also relates the growing pains of an operation that has steadfastly resisted becoming an extension of government, retaining its outspoken character and integrity even as it has become a form of shorthand for humanitarian action. Abundant colour illustrations take the reader directly to the front lines of humanitarian action, providing a window into

the MSF experience, up close.

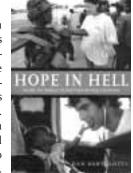
The book concludes with excerpts from Dr. James Orbinski's acceptance speech at the ceremony for the 1999 Nobel Peace Prize: "Our action is to help people in situations of crisis. And ours is not a contented action. Bringing medical aid to people in distress is an attempt to defend them against what is aggressive to as human beings.

generosity, simple charity. It aims to build

spaces of normalcy in the midst of what is

abnormal. More than offering material assistance, we aim to enable individuals to regain their rights and dignity as human beings. As an independent volunteer association, we are committed to bringing direct medical aid to people in need. But we act not in a vacuum, and we speak not into the wind, but with a clear intent to assist to provoke change. or to reveal injustice. Our action and our voice is an act of indig-

Humanitarian action is more than simple nation, a refusal to accept an active or passive assault on the other." — Peter Schneider



Coming Soon: Foreign Policy In 3-D

Lack of consultation a source of frustration, concern among critics

By Sarah McGregor

ne of Ottawa's best-kept secrets is supposed to be tabled in the House of Commons in time for Christmas. Or maybe January.

Any day now, Foreign Affairs Canada is expected to hand over the international policy statement, totaling well over 100 pages. It will outline an integrated approach to defence, diplomacy, development and trade - otherwise known as 3-D plus T - with an annex detailing each department's specific goals and responsibilities. The blueprint is the first comprehensive inventory-taking and tidy realignment of international stock in 10 years, and is supposed to lead the country for the decade ahead.

Still, it's hard to know exactly what the authors will suggest Canada do differently. The government has tightly controlled any recommendations emerging from the year-long internal review mandated by the prime minister. Even major stakeholders have been left in the dark. Until now, they haven't made much noise about the closed-door process.

But that is all expected to change in the new year. Bernard Patry, chair of the Foreign Affairs Commons committee, says members will be hitting the road – statement in hand – no earlier than February for a series of cross-country consultations. Interest groups are being told that will be the first formal opportunity to directly inform Canada's international policy vision. Online forums could eventually provide another way to share ideas. Those views will likely have only a slight impact on the statement itself. Rather they will inform an annual foreign policy update that will regularly seek public input, according to Michael Pearson, coordinator of the IPR. This routine update will fine-tune elements of the statement in order to keep pace with a rapidly changing world, he says. "The [review's] mandate... said proposed directions will be tabled in the fall, they didn't say options will be tabled in the fall. The clear mandate was given to the ministers to figure out how to put flesh on the bone," he says. "But we aren't going to table it and say don't talk to us again, (rather) let's have a dialogue because things change fast. (The annual update won't be) an annual 'cover every issue and look under every rock."

Prime Minister Paul Martin appointed Mr. Pearson almost immediately last December to



IPR Coordinator Michael Pearson is involved in the second foreign policy review of his career; the

reconcile the interests of politicians, including Ministers and the PMO, and the research of public servants waist-high in policy development. He had been extensively involved in a similar exercise during the last review in the mid-90s working under then-Foreign Affairs Minister Andre Ouellet. At that time, a Special Joint Parliamentary committee of Senators and MPs was struck to conduct a sweeping review. The panel organized broad consultations: about 550 written briefs, 500 witnesses, and numerous consultation papers, all mostly from NGOs, according to an article published in the Fall 2001 edition of the Canadian Business and Current Affairs Journal.

In a recent interview with *Embassy*, another foreign affairs minister from the '90s. Lloyd Axworthy, says he has serious misgivings that this year's re-definition of Canada's place on the global stage will not reflect popular opinion. "They [Foreign Affairs] invite people to discuss the review who tend to agree with them," says Dr. Axworthy. "Certainly Canadians have not been involved or engaged in this. The tragic thing is that as I travel across the country there is a huge appetite among Canadians to be involved."

Mr. Pearson is up-front that the department hasn't conducted any new formal consultations.

(To be fair, he says a 2003 foreign policy dialogue conducted by then-Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham and recent committee reports have played a role. In addition, ministers sought answers from their network of sources, including academics and analysts.) He explains Mr. Martin defined a clear agenda from the outset, which has served as the driving force. Mr. Pearson bristles at the suggestion that the final statement will only show signs of Liberal values, emphasizing divergent views can be expressed before a Parliamentary committee. "A government is in place to make decisions; that is what governments are for, that is what people vote for... Will those decisions be subject to a few changes because of the analysis that Parliament does? Maybe. Maybe there will be some issues in those documents where as a result of the Parliamentary review process the government will make a few adjustments," he states.

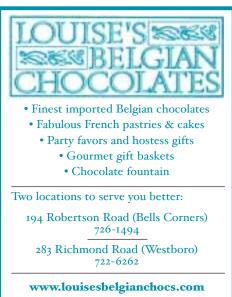
Gerry Barr, president of the Canadian Council for International Cooperation, says many non-governmental organizations have already submitted their own views to Foreign Affairs and CIDA even without an invitation. For instance, the CCIC has proposed boosting international aid and improving the quality of overseas development spending. Some groups have arranged informal meetings with policy-makers. Yet, Mr. Barr says he can't be certain if any of their ideas will permeate. "Our position with the Prime Minister was always that in order to have a quality process it needed to be open, transparent and accountable. And we haven't had that yet and it remains to be seen if we're going to get it," he says, adding, "we are expecting that there will be great openness."

On the for-profit side, The Canadian Council of Chief Executives says business leaders haven't been formally consulted either. The organization is hoping to publish a paper in the near future on what industry officials believe trade policy should look like.

Alain Pellerin, executive director of the Conference on Defence Associations, has farreaching connections with military experts across Canada who are all watching closely to see what the review will bring. Mr. Pearson assures defence will get a full mention in the final statement, and that the Commons defence committee will likely hear testimony within

Continued on Page 9







Case Studies

Profiles of leading Canadian NGOs illustrate a wide range of activities in many countries

OXFAM Canada

Website

www.oxfam.ca

Executive Director



Rieky Stuart

Number of Employees

50 employees worldwide, 40 in Canada

Core Mission

Oxfam Canada builds lasting solutions to global poverty and injustice. We work with allies in Canada and around the world to change the policies and practices that perpetuate human suffering. We support organizations in poor communities overseas in their struggle to secure basic rights. Oxfam's advocacy and campaigns for just policies are rooted in the knowledge and experience gained in that struggle.

Regions of Focus

Andean countries, Central America, the Caribbean, Southern Africa and the Horn of Africa. OXFAM also responds to emergencies around the world.

Annual Budget, and Main Funding Source(s)

2003: \$14 million

Funded by public donations and government grants; funding from 12 other OXFAM partners.

What is the one international development/foreign policy issue your organization has given the most attention to since the Paul Martin government was elected?

Trade rules, particularly in agriculture. We are globally campaigning in the coming year to encourage the trade negotiators to support special treatment for developing countries in trade rules.

In your experience, what has proven to be the most effective means to lobby government officials in Ottawa?

It depends on the issue. One thing that is key is doing good research so that you can win the intellectual argument. But that is never enough; that's only the beginning. After that you have to demonstrate the numbers. And that is where our outreach efforts come in.

Does your organization feel that a financial dependency on the federal government, multilateral organizations or other donors hinders the effectiveness of your work?

I don't think it hinders our works. We do receive substantial grants from CIDA, though it's much smaller than it used to be. We have been able to make up losses with donations from the public. But it has not hampered our work. CIDA has drastically reduced the contracts it provides to Canadian organizations, instead directly providing them via governments overseas and multilateral institutions.

What avenues should Canada pursue in order to alleviate poverty and promote stability around the world?

They have to raise the aid budget. Canada is way behind. And the eight per cent (annual) increases are just the beginning. The aid budget should be double what it is today. Certainly, we support Mr. Martin's efforts on the *Responsibility to Protect* and UN reform is crucial. But trade is equally as important as aid. We hope Canadian trade negotiations will understand and embrace special treatment for developing nations.

What impending crisis is the world failing to identify right now?

Even the ones getting the media spotlight aren't getting addressed properly, Sudan is a case in point. Governments have only provided 75 per cent of the immediate needs for the year – no pledges beyond that. There is an urgent need to bring an end to the fighting there. The international community has... only offered weak-kneed resolutions. Northern Uganda... (and) Zimbabwe are others.

Are you satisfied with the level of NGO consultation during the International Policy Review?

We don't know because we haven't seen what they have come up with. We do know it's been an internal process. We, and other NGOs, have submitted briefs, even though they didn't ask us to. Whether they have taken them into account we have no way of knowing.

What makes Canadian NGOs different from counterparts around the world?

It's really difficult to generalize. Canada doesn't have colonial baggage; that means we are seen in a different way than many others. Canada also does not have imperial interests – as least we're not perceived as having them. That gives us a foot in the door – the ability to being a conversation – that NGOs from other countries have to work hard to achieve. Canadians NGOs have a long track record of excellent work in most developing countries, which again is important for our reputation – with the support of the CIDA.

Do you interact with foreign missions and consulates in Canada?

We always, of course, have regular meetings with (Canadian officials) in embassies and missions overseas, where we have operations. We also meet with embassies (in Ottawa) in order to maintain good relations and work our way through any bureaucratic obstacles that appear.

CARE Canada

Website

www.care.ca

Executive Director



A. John Watson

Number of Employees

Ottawa, 60, International, 75

Core Mission

HIV and AIDS, Development, Emergency Relief, Rehabilitation

Regions of Focus

Global

Annual Budget, and Main Funding Source(s)

\$170 million

Funded by CIDA, UN, public, foundations etc.

What is the one international development/foreign policy issue your organization has given the most attention to since the Paul Martin government was elected?

Making markets work for the poor (economic development for poor people).

In your experience, what has proven to be the most effective means to lobby government officials in Ottawa?

 $360^{\rm o}$ effort. That is government officials, MPs (and) the public are all hearing and discussing the issue.

Does your organization feel that a financial dependency on the federal government, multilateral organizations or other donors hinders the effectiveness of your work?

No, we only accept funding for work that is consistent with our mandate.

What avenues should Canada pursue in order to alleviate poverty and promote stability around the world?

Whatever channel is adopted, using Canadian expertise, alongside financial resources, should be paramount. We believe increases in development budgets should be channeled to fostering economic growth, and that relief spending should be increased to enable conditions for economic growth to be established.

What impending crisis is the world failing to identify right now?

The conflict in eastern Congo is neglected, primarily due to it being internal to the Congo.

Are you satisfied with the level of NGO consultation during the International Policy Review?

There have been ample opportunities to comment, though many seem to feel as if the bureaucracy isn't really listening.

What makes Canadian NGOs different from counterparts around the world?

We often have less financial support, either from the public, and/or the government, than NGOs from other countries. In response, Canadian NGOs work more effectively in partnership, and tend to be more responsive and innovative. Conversely, we are often working at a small scale.

Do you interact with foreign missions and consulates in Canada?

Yes. CARE is active in 50 countries, so we maintain networking type contacts with those located here.

WaterCan / EauVive

Websit

www.watercan.com

Executive Director



Gary H.J. Pluim

Number of Employees

Five full-time staff.

Core Mission

To help citizens of developing countries build sustainable water supply and sanitation services, and encourage Canadians to lend support.

Regions of Focus

Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Africa. WaterCan's community-driven projects assist poor families living in rural areas and urban slums.

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Standing On Neutral Ground

A former Liberal cabinet minister makes a bold move to the non-governmental sector

By Sarah McGregor

Tormer defence minister David Pratt has **◄** clocked less than 200 working hours at his new job as an advisor and special ambassador to the Canadian Red Cross. His new office on Metcalfe Street is situated just south of Parliament Hill and over the bridge from DND Headquarters. But he hardly feels like the new kid on the block, having just made a fairly dramatic career move to the non-profit sector. The onetime politician says he's almost been working toward this role his entire professional life. Even as the backbencher who sat in the House while fellow Liberals rose to applaud then prime minister Jean Chrétien for refusing to join the war in Iraq. Or as the special envoy to Sierra Leone working on ways to address the conflict diamond trade. Or as the Defence Minister whose grasp on the military made him one of the most respected Martin Cabinet Ministers. "I don't see much of a difference," he says. "Both the Red Cross and the Defence department have a mission. And I can consider both organizations to be a force for good. I think when you're part of an organization that you know is having a positive impact and has the potential to have an even more positive impact in the future, then it's tremendously motivating."

Mr. Pratt's defeat in the riding of Nepean-Carleton during the June election shocked observers. The vote fell on the same day he attended a Red Cross charity golf tournament as the star attraction. In the following weeks, as he considered his options, the lucrative private sector job offers rolled in. In late July, just as Mr. Pratt and his wife were about to go on vacation, an old friend dropped him a line. It was Red Cross Canada Secretary-General Dr. Pierre Duplessis. He had taken great interest in Mr. Pratt's work in helping to end Sierra Leone's blood diamond trade - a practice that fuels violence and child enslavement. Mr. Pratt had served as Canada's special envoy to Sierra Leone under two ministers of Foreign Affairs, and had introduced a private members' bill on the topic. Mr. Pratt officially announced he had accepted a one-vear contract from the Canada Red Cross in October.



PHOTOGRAPH BY TOM HILLMAN, EMBAS

Special ambassador to the Canadian Red Cross David Pratt is learning on the job, but also applying his military and humanitarian law expertise.

Mr. Pratt has earned the respect of some of the leading experts on human security and the diamond trade. One admirer is Ian Smillie, who has served as a UN Security Council expert panel investigator into illicit weapons and the diamond trade in Sierra Leone. "David has been on both sides of that divide, returning to the humanitarian world seems to make some sense," says Mr. Smillie. He says the former MP can help coalesce the efforts of military and non-governmental actors. "I think it's about understanding each other's role better, and trying to be more supportive and not standing in each other's way when something needs to be done," says Mr. Smillie.

Mr. Pratt is an international humanitarian law expert who believes rules like the Geneva Convention help protect people in armed conflict. Part of his mission will be to advance a deeper understanding of IHL around the world.

To do this, he draws connections between the hazards facing humanitarian workers in unstable conditions and the violation of international law. "Any time humanitarian organization are targeted like the explosions at the ICRC in Baghdad, IHL is under threat. Any time aid workers like the MSF staff in Afghanistan are killed, IHL is under threat," Mr. Pratt told the Canadian Red Cross AGM in Toronto on Nov.14.

Speaking with *Embassy* during an interview at his office, Mr. Pratt elaborates on the blurring of the divide between troops and relief workers. He says during wartime the situation is much different than during peacetime operations. "It's a question of how closely you work together and whether or not there is any politicization of the aid. And that is an area where I think the Red Cross has a role in terms of making sure the governments are aware of the role of IHL so they don't cross the line. But the militaries and aid organizations must always work together," he says.

He may even bring this message to the halls of his former employer. "It is important for governments to understand the ground rules. And the Canadian Red Cross has a role in educating the Canadian military," he says. At this point during the chat, Mr. Pratt thinks of another skill set he's applying to the new job: "One of the things that I focussed on at DND was readiness: How well equipped are we to respond to a disaster in Ottawa or the floods in Haiti. These are issues that are common to both organizations: having the institutional capacity to respond to help people."

Which brings the discussion to another political hot spot: Iraq. Mr. Pratt is clearly uncomfortable discussing his pro-war stance on Canada's participation in the invasion of Iraq. He declines to comment whether his opinion has changed.

"I think people realize that when I was in politics you take a particular stance based on the information that you had available at the time, and what you think is the right thing," he says.

Finally, he thinks of something that will take getting used to: neutrality.

"I'm not, in keeping with the Red Cross's policy of neutrality, prepared to talk about political stands that I took in the past, other than to say that I'm focussed on the Red Cross mission at this point."

He also is adjusting quite nicely to a different decision-making procedure. "There is certainly a whole lot less bureaucracy in terms of getting things done. And, from my perspective, that is always a good thing," he quips.

ce Canada Red Cross in October. Can

Continued from Page 7

those specific policy parameters. Meanwhile, the Senate Defence committee is already gathering information for what it calls in a press release a "comprehensive defence review" which will be tabled next autumn. Mr. Pellerin says he is demanding the government put more money into the military. "It's all very nice to talk about Canada's leading role in the world, but you need the resources," he says.

The Opposition has been also relatively silent on the issue of the review. Some MPs are taking part in a series of Foreign Affairs committee briefing sessions in anticipation of the cross-Canada tour next year. This session, the committee has heard from representatives on the topics of disarmament, humanitarian crises, UN reform and world hunger.

Conservative Foreign Affairs Critic Stockwell Day says in personal discussions that Mr. Pettigrew has promised substantial changes if the committee finds the Liberals' statement got it wrong. Mr. Day warns it would be "grave error" to do otherwise. "He [Mr. Pettigrew] says there will be significant input and modification if necessary. We will be aggressively looking at it," he said. "Anything as important as foreign policy should never be done at the wheel of the bulldozer. It should be consultative."

A motion introduced by NDP Foreign Affairs Critic Alexa McDonough earlier this year requesting the committee visit communities to discuss ballistic missile defence was rejected. But she says it was done so with the understanding that BMD would play centrally in the pan-Canadian consultations. "We accept that the government has a right and responsibility to draft a policy position. But we do so assured there will be significant consultation," says Ms. McDonough.

Mr. Pearson says hardly any MPs from other political parties have not tried to directly influence the statement over the past year. "The Opposition has all kinds of opportunities in the

last 12 months to have said what they thought about that... I'm trying to think of the number of letters written to the Ministers by Opposition critics on the (international policy review). I can think of maybe two in 12 months. It takes two to tango. They have to show an interest in wanting to engage in a process and not just have an expectation that they have a right to that," says Mr. Pearson.

The foreign affairs committee chair, Mr. Patry, says it could take between six months and two years for MPs to complete their fact-finding mission and file a report to Parliament. But he says the panel will wait for direction from the prime minister. "Because we don't have the mandate we can't be sure about... who will run the show," he says. Conservative Senator Consiglio Di Nino, Senate Committee Foreign Affairs Deputy Chair, says the Upper Chamber is also waiting. Mr. Pearson says he's optimistic the waiting will end before the next calendar year. Or maybe the new year.







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Essential Reading Material

A new generation of policy journals is taking the discussion online

By Sarah McGregor

ar more than research tools for political science majors, Canadian foreign policy journals drive the international debate. The publications are not only read by policy-makers, practitioners in the field, and academics, but often compel governments to act, according to their editors.

This fall, two new Canadian international development journals will join the mix of periodicals challenging conventional wisdom. Both publications pledge to bring this country's perspective to the forefront of urgent global issues – from trade and aid, to the environment and human rights. *Embassy* spoke with the editors of these new journals, and some others who have been advancing the foreign policy discussion for decades, to find out more.



The Journal of Development Policy and Practice, published by the Analysis and Research Branch of CIDA Editor: Rajkumari Shanker Website: www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/journal (available after Dec. 16) Subscription: Free, Quarterly

Close to one year ago, CIDA's Analysis and Research Policy Branch called upon its employees to brainstorm a different kind of grassroots project. About 50 officials gathered around a table in a boardroom of the Gatineau office, playing around with the idea of publishing a new journal aimed at reconciling "policy with practice." The group at once agreed it would need to be much more illuminating than its predecessor the Development Express which folded in December 2003. That digest published only one article per issue, usually a condensed version of a dry academic paper. It also had a hefty annual budget of about \$100,000, according to editor Rajkumari Shanker, noting the Development Express paid writers for their copy. This was the starting point of the Journal of Development Policy and Practice. The soon to be released quarterly journal is being run by two staff members (one part-time, one full-time)

and a "shoestring budget," according to Ms. Shanker, who declined to cite budgetary figures. As for the content, the articles will advance understanding of complex international development issues, says Ms. Shanker. More importantly, it will be a mechanism for academics to inform government policy, she says. "We have been told over and over again there is no connection between universities and CIDA - ideas and practice," she says. "We want to bridge the gap." The inaugural issue, on the topic of corruption, features commentary by World Bank Institute Director of Global Governance Daniel Kaufmann CIDA desk office Shaukat Hassan and the former Nepalese finance minister Devendra Raj Panday, now of Transparency International. Book reviews, statistics on corruption levels worldwide, and a list of suggested further readings will round out the table of contents. The first 60-page document (65 pages in French) will be released Dec. 16. Ms. Shanker notes only 500 hard copies will be printed, with web-based subscriptions forming the bulk of distribution. The front and back cover pages and some graphs buried in the journal will be printed in full colour. "People around here are all very excited about it. We pride ourselves by saying CIDA is a knowledge-based agency. This is going to make CIDA better at that," she says. "We are also trying to raise public awareness, so people can discuss certain ideas and alternative methods of looking at things."



Undercurrent: the Canadian
Undergraduate Journal of
Development Studies
Editors: Geoffrey Cameron and Sam Grey
Website: www.undercurrentjournal.ca
Subscription: Free, only available online,
periodic

Undergraduate-level students and researchers are the featured authors in the inaugural issue of *Undercurrent*. The new publication

claims it is the only student-run national undergraduate journal focussed on topics related to international development. It was conceived at the June 2004 InSight Conference, an international development meeting of the young minds, in Winnipeg, Manitoba. "An undergraduate doesn't really have the opportunity to publish, despite some of the outstanding research they do. The subject matter is very compelling, and people get very involved in that," says Sam Grey a third-year international development student at Trent University in Peterborough, Ont. More than 31 undergraduate students submitted papers on a wide array of topics for consideration in the first issue. However, only five of the most unique think pieces were chosen for the first publication, which was released in early November. Ms. Grey reports that close to 750 visitors have accessed the journal online, from Canada, Europe, Africa and the U.S. "The feedback has been overwhelming positive," says Ms. Grey. The deadline for submissions to be considered in the next issue is April 1, 2005, and that edition hits the web June 1,2005.



Canadian Journal of Development Studies, published by the University of Ottawa Co-Editors: Scott Simon and Henry Veltmeyer Website: www.cjds.ca Subscription: \$65 individuals,

\$35 students, \$110 institutions, quarterly

"Pierre Trudeau once said that politics must start with facts, and so we think of ourselves as producing the facts so that policies can be more effective," explains Scott Simon, co-editor of the Canadian Journal of Development Studies. Mr. Simon says he's sure the journal's commentary strikes the minds of policy makers in Ottawa and around the world. For instance, the African agenda had been a topic of intense scrutiny for years in the periodical. This discussion, in part, informed the G8 dialogue in Kananaskis, Alberta in 2002, which led to a massive monetary and political commitment by world leaders, including then-PM Jean Chretien. "We try to take an interdisciplinary analysis. We want to get a broader scope on things. We combine empirical research and cases

studies with analysis, focussing on the countries of the developing world," says Mr. Simon. Founded in 1980, the quarterly digest also publishes special issues on thematic topics. The journal is partnered with the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the International Development Research Centre, CIDA and Heritage Canada.



Canadian Foreign Policy Journal, published by The Norman Paterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University Editor: Maureen Molot Website: www.carleton.ca/npsia/cfpj/ Subscription: \$60 personal, \$95 institutional, \$25 single issues, three times a year

When the Prime Minister's Office announced last December its first comprehensive international policy review in 10 years, Canadian academics saw a rare opening. They had been trying to stimulate this debate in the pages of the Canadian Foreign Policy Journal since the last comprehensive government review in the mid-'90s. The periodical's scope is defined as "bridging the gap between the research and policy communities," and it had been doing just that. But the high placement of foreign policy on the government's agenda gave CFP pens hope that their ideas would finally be raised to a much higher power. Over the years, contributors have included some of Canada's most revered international experts, including former foreign affairs minister Lloyd Axworthy, former NDP leader now MP - Ed Broadbent, Canada's former ambassador to Washington Raymond Chretien, and Louise Fréchette, the UN Deputy Secretary General. The journal first published in late 1992, and now reaches subscribers in 40 different countries, according to its website. "We print abstracts in a brochure, and then distribute copies by mail or at conferences," explains managing editor Sarah Geddes. "Users can go to the website to download the article or phone in a request and we can print copies."

Urban Networking with Vancouver's ICSC

By Christina Leadlay

ne of the things that is a frustration to me, having spent the last six years focusing on cities, is that we say that abject poverty is worse in the rural areas," says Dr. Nola-Kate Seymoar, President and CEO of the Vancouver-based International Centre for Sustainable Cities, a non-profit organization organized in 1993. "CIDA, for example, focuses largely on rural development...but they have not made the connection that basically 93 per cent of the growth in the next 30 years is going to occur in developing countries' cities. If you don't tackle cities, you don't tackle the quality of life of the whole world," she laments.

The ICSC is concerned with the world's cities, and how their infrastructures will be able to handle the projected annual 2.4 per cent rise in the

world's urban populations. ICSC's main projects are extremely practical: "We do garbage, sewage, slums and transportation," says Dr. Seymoar. "Sustainable development is a concept that people have trouble understanding. What we do is we bring it to ground in action." The ICSC has won awards for its work in improving the lives of the world's poorest urbanites - its South East Asia local solid waste improvement project was recognized at the 2002 Stockholm Awards - but since 2002 it has also focused on sharing the world's best practices. In response to their role in greater Vancouver's winning plan for the 2003 International Gas Union's 100-year strategic city plan competition, the ICSC established the Plus 30 network of what will ultimately be 30 or more international cities planning for very long term urban sustainability. "Most long-term planning in

cities is 20 to 25 years," says Dr. Seymoar. "But what we found is that it wasn't until we went out about 30 years and beyond that we discovered that our systems [food, water, sewage, transportation] were going to break down." These North-South networks work through web-based dialogue and face-to-face meetings so that cities can share their successes and ask for help with particular problems. Dr. Seymoar recalls how the Mexican city of Matamoras tackled its water problem by appointing children to act as water inspectors in order to curb wastage and misuse."It teaches kids about the importance of water conservation, it teaches us about how we waste water and it really built a new awareness and network among children and adults about their own city. It has been a terrific experience in Matamoras. Canadian cities have just heard about this and so

the idea is just now being picked up by other cities around the world. The ones that are likely to take it up are places like Adelaide in Australia where they have a very similar water problem."

One very small ICSC project in Bangkok which used urban greening to alleviate poverty and ultimately improve esthetics has been picked up by cities in Sri Lanka, according to Dr. Seymoar. Also, Canadian cities have a lot to offer their international counterparts. "Hamilton won the Dubai award in 2002 for the livability and the development of their city," she explains. "They are looked to and they are used as an example fairly frequently internationally. Whistler, a resort community, has undertaken to use the Natural Step which is a [sustainable development] framework from Sweden. Their experience is now being picked up by other places around the world."

EMBASSY Listings

Mongolian Photo Exhibit MacOdrum Library, main floor. Carleton University, 1125 Colonel By Dr. (www.library.carleton.ca). Through Dec. 10. Carleton's Library is hosting a photo exhibit on loan from the Embassy of Mongolia entitled "Mongolia's Struggle for Independence in the 20th Century".

The Centre 122 Lamoureux Hall, 145 Jean-Jacques Lussier, University of Ottawa. (613-232-1101). 7 p.m. Free. Part of French/German film series, through December 10. An entertaining quest to find the geographical centre of Europe. Dir. Stanislaw Mucha. Germany, 2004. German with English subtitles.

Viva Algeria 122 Lamoureux Hall, 145 Jean-Jacques Lussier, University of Ottawa. (613-232-1101). 9 p.m. Free, Part of French/German film series, through December 10. Death stalks three women: emancipated Goucem, her safety-seeking friend Fifi, and Goucem's fearful mother Papicha. Dir. Nadir Mokneche, France, 2004, French with English subtitles.

Hero ByTowne Cinema, 325 Rideau St. (613-789-FILM; www.bytowne.ca). 4:15 p.m. \$9, \$5.50 members. A lucid and cunning martial arts genre piece set in 3rd century B.C.China about how humankind must make war to preserve peace. Dir. Zhang Yimou. China/Hong Kong 2002. Mandarin with English sub-titles.

Thursday, December 9

Press Attachés' Lunch National Press Club Dining Room, 165 Sparks St. (613-233-5641; www.pressclub.on.ca). Noon. Gilles Duceppe, Leader of the Bloc Quebecois, will speak on the topic "Views on Paul Martin's first session as a minority government."

Seminar: "Globalizations and Law" Room 125, 1 Stewart St. University of Ottawa. (613-562-5754; politi@uottawa.ca) 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. University of Ottawa's School of Political Studies invites you to a French-language seminar by Université de Montréal's philosophy of law specialist Bjarne Melkevik on Globalization and Law.

Au Feu! 122 Lamoureux Hall 145 Jean-Jacques Lussier, University of Ottawa. (613-232-1101). 7 p.m. Free. Part of French/German film series, through December 10. News of a visit by Bill Clinton sends a post-war Bosnian village into a frenzy. Dir. Pjer Zalica. France 2004. Bosnian with subtitles.

Lea 122 Lamoureux Hall, 145 Jean-Jacques Lussier, University of Ottawa. (613-232-1101). 9 p.m. Free. Part of French/German film series, through December 10. A tragic and modern fairytale about a German man who falls in love with a Slovakian woman who resembles his deceased wife. They marry, but the relationship is doomed. Ivan Pila. Germany1996. Slovakian and German with sub-titles.

The Story of the Weeping Camel ByTowne Cinema, 325 Rideau St. (613-789-FILM; www.bytowne.ca). 7:15 p.m. \$9, \$5.50 members. Through December 11. National Geographic co-produced this Gobi Desertbased docudrama. A Mongolian family attempts to reunite a mother camel with the baby she has rejected. Dir. Byambasuren Davaa & Luigi Falorni. Germany 2003. Mongolian with English sub-titles.

Friday, December 10

The Story of the Weeping Camel ByTowne Cinema, 325 Rideau St. 4:45 p.m. See Thu 9.

Distant Lights 122 Lamoureux Hall, 145 Jean-Jacques Lussier, University of Ottawa. (613-232-1101). 7 p.m. Free. Part of French/German film series, through December 10. A true-to-life drama about a no-man'sland along the Polish/German border, where Ukrainian refugees Dir. Hans-Christian Schmid. Germany 2003. German with subtitles.

Granny 122 Lamoureux Hall, 145 Jean-Jacques Lussier, University of Ottawa. (613-232-1101). 7 p.m. Free. Part of French/German film series, through December 10. 80-yearold Granny (Baboussia) is devoted to her family; however, the sentiment is less than reciprocal when she needs to find a new home with her relatives. Lidia Bovrova. France and Russia, 2004. Russian with subtitles.

The Motorcycle Diaries ByTowne Cinema, 325 Rideau St. (613-789-FILM; www.bytowne.ca). 9:15 p.m. \$9,\$5.50 members.Through December 13. This film retraces the route taken in 1952 by Ernesto 'Che' Guevara and his friend, showing the inspiration behind Che's pan-South American socialist ideals, Dir. Walter Salles, Argentina 2004, Spanish with English sub-titles.

Saturday, December 11

Today is Burkina Faso's Republic Day, established in 1958. Contact the embassy at (613-238-4796).

Hungarian Christmas Bake Sale, Erskine Presbyterian Church Hall, 343 Bronson Ave. 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. \$10; \$5 children. Treat yourself to Hungarian cuisine featuring a bazaar of homemade Hungarian cookies, cakes, tortes, and fancy pastry, and lunch including cabbage rolls.

The Story of the Weeping Camel ByTowne Cinema, 325 Rideau St. 2:30 p.m. See Thu 9.

Christmas Concert Glebe Community Centre, 690 Lyon St. (613-623-6089; www.ottawachamberorchestra.ca) 2:30 p.m. \$10; \$8 seniors/students. The Ottawa Chamber Orchestra presents a special Christmas concert with special guests conductor Kurt Ala-Kantti and the Harmonia choir, with works by Handel, Rutter and Vaughan Williams and a reading of John Rutter's "Brother Heinrich's Christmas"

The Motorcycle Diaries ByTowne Cinema, 325 Rideau St. 6:45 p.m. See Fri 10.

41 years ago today, **Kenya** gained **Independence** from the United Kingdom. Contact the high commission at (613-563-1773).

Mochitsuki St Anthony Soccer Club, 523 St. Anthony St. off Preston St. (613-731-7939) 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. The Ottawa Japanese Cultural Centre hosts the Japanese custom of communal rice cake making.

Christmas Concert Orleans United Church, 1111 Orleans Boulevard. (613-623-6089; www.ottawachamberorchestra.ca) 3 p.m. \$10; \$8 seniors/students. Same programme, different venue: the Ottawa Chamber Orchestra presents a second performance of their special Christmas concert. See Sat 11.

The Motorcycle Diaries ByTowne Cinema, 325 Rideau St. 3:50 p.m. See Fri 10.

Lucia Celebration Museum of Civilization, 100 rue Laurier, Gatineau, Quebec. (819- 776-7000; www.civilization.ca). 8 p.m. \$20; \$16 seniors & students. The Embassy of Sweden invites you to the 6th annual traditional Lucia celebration, featuring a candlelight procession, a choral concert and a Swedish smorgasbord.

Weiner Bon-bons St. Luke's Church 760 Somerset St. West. 7:30 p.m. Viennese classics arranged for string quartet is the theme of tonight's performance in the St. Luke's Recital Series, featuring violinists Ralitza Tcholakova & Laura Neurenberg, violist Emmanuel Beaudet, and cellist Kirk Starkey.

Monday, December 13

The Motorcycle Diaries ByTowne Cinema, 325 Rideau St 4:15 p.m. See Fri 10

Tuesday, December 14

A Korean Information & Cultural Orientation Evening National Library and Archives Canada Auditorium, 395 Wellington St. (reservations 613-244-5044; cultural@emb-korea.ottawa.on.ca) 5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Free. FAC, ITC, and the Korean Embassy present an information session for Canadians interested in the Working Holiday Program or in going to Korea to teach English as a Second Language.

Handel's Messiah National Arts Centre, 53 Elgin St. (613- 947-7000; www.nac-cna.ca) 8 p.m. \$34 -\$81. Through December 15. Trevor Pinnock conducts four soloists and the Opera Lyra Ottawa Chorus in G. F. Handel's most famous work, also a favourite holiday classic.

Wednesday, December 15

Material Differences: Art and Identity in Africa National Gallery of Canada, 380 Sussex Dr. (613-998-8888; www.gallery.ca). \$9; \$7 students; \$3 youth. Through Jan. 2. A showcase of materials used in African art, exploring relationships, significance, techniques and the role of the artist.

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Members' Christmas Party Thursday, Dec. 16, starting at 6 p.m.

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- THE NELLIES SINGERS WITH SONGS OF THE SEASON
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Going Once, Going Twice...

nstead of holding a concert as a fundraising the items up for grabs are increasingly lucrative basket from the Italian embassy which is stunevent, the Ottawa Chamber Music Society decided to do something innovative."This is our third annual online auction," says

Suzan Zilahi. Director Communications with the OCMS. "We realized that this was the perfect venue for us to do fundraising, and it was very successful. We're making it better every year." Not only does the revenue ameliorate each year - bids from last year's donated items generated \$38,000

for the OCMS, going towards everything from operating expenses to paying musicians - but and exciting. Ms. Zilahi reflects on

past prizes including a stunning coffeetable book courtesy of the French embassy and tickets to the Austrian mission's Winter Ball, while highlighting this year's treats:

"The trips are very popular. We have 3 trips to France. The other thing that right now is our highest bid is dinner and a concert for 10 at the Swiss Ambassador's residence. Another one that I think is really cool is a personal guided tour of the

French embassy, and we have a Christmas gift

ning." A 2-CD set of Verdi's opera

Simon Boccanegra donated by the Belgian Embassy rounds out the diplomatic contributions, but there are still many more items to browse and bid on, including a hot air balloon ride, a Valentine's day package, and a Steinway piano, just to name a few of the 420 items. According to Ms. Zilahi, the online auction is "such a fun thing; people become addicted to it. And the time we're

having it, it is such a great way to get your Christmas shopping done. It's fast, it's easy... people have a lot of variety." The Ottawa Chamber Music Society's online auction runs until December 15. Visit www.chamberfest.com to place your bid. — Christina Leadlay

EMBASSYINGO Contacts

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NGO Case Studies: WaterCan

Providing an on-the-ground perspective to senior government officials on what works and doesn't work

Continued from Page 8

Annual Budget, and Main Funding Source(s):

WaterCan's 2003/04 annual operating budget was just over \$900,000. Approximately onethird of our funding comes from CIDA. Other sources include individual donations, schools, service clubs, community and faith-based organizations, businesses, and foundations,

What is the one international development/foreign policy issue vour organization has given the most attention to since the Paul Martin government was elected?

Through WaterCan's public education program in Canada, we have highlighted the importance and significance of the UN Millennium Development Goals. WaterCan is especially committed to help ensure that - at the very minimum - the MDG target of reducing by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe water and basic sanitation by 2015 will be achieved. To renew the international community's commitment to achieving this goal, next year's World Water

Day (March 22, 2005) will mark the official start of the UN's International Decade of Action "Water for Life" 2005-2015.

In your experience, what has proven to be the most effective means to lobby government officials in Ottawa?

To appreciate the constraints that Canadian government officials face when developing official international aid policies. Last April, WaterCan was invited to serve as a development NGO Advisor to the Canadian delegation at the 12th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-12) at the United Nations in New York, CSD-12 focused on the topics of Water, Sanitation, and Human Settlements. Through this activity. WaterCan was able to gain a better appreciation of why the Canadian government adheres to certain policy positions. At the same time, WaterCan had the opportunity to provide senior government officials with "on-the-ground" perspectives on what works and doesn't work. Making sure that policy makers are always connected to what's going in the field is critical for ensuring good policy development.

Does your organization feel that a financial dependency on the federal government, multilateral organizations or other donors hinders the effectiveness of your work?

While WaterCan currently gets about onethird of its revenue from CIDA, this has no direct influence on how we plan and implement our overseas projects. For example, all WaterCan supported projects include fieldproven "best practices" such as using low-cost appropriate technologies, integration of sanitation and hygiene education activities, and emphasis on community ownership of planning, operation and maintenance processes. NGOs including WaterCan, however, are vulnerable to possible negative changes in Canadian government policy regarding how international development NGOs and other civil society groups contribute to Canada's international aid efforts.

What avenues should Canada pursue in order to alleviate poverty and promote stability around the world?

One of the single most important development initiatives Canada currently supports

relates to international debt relief efforts for developing countries such as the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative. WaterCan applauds Canada for implementing its own Canadian Debt Initiative in 2000 when Canada announced it would stop collecting debt payments from HIPC countries committed to poverty reduction and good governance. It is important that Canada continues to exert its influence within key international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to ensure that the world's poorest countries are able to free up the necessary financial resources to fund basic social services such as education, health care. and water and sanitation. A positive case is Uganda where basic social services have been significantly expanded in the past decade.

What impending crisis is the world failing to identify right now?

Given the complexity and inter-connectedness of the numerous challenges facing our world, highlighting a single issue is a difficult task. The HIV/AIDS pandemic

Continued on Page 13

Good Rep

Canada still seen as honest broker in developing world

Continued from Page 12

raging in various regions of the developing world clearly deserves our attention, and indeed prominent Canadians like Mr. Stephen Lewis, the UN's Special Envoy on HIV/AIDS in Africa, has done a tremendous job on raising the profile of this terrible disease. Unfortunately, the fact that poor people lack access to clean drinking water and basic sanitation is so mundane that it rarely stirs any interest in the world media. Today more than one billion people (more than 30 times the population of Canada) have no access to safe drinking water, and double this number do not have the dignity of proper sanitation. Every day more than 6,000 people die from preventable water- and sanitation-related diseases. This is equivalent to a death every 15 seconds. For example, less than 25 per cent of Ethiopia's 67 million people have easy access to clean drinking water. For a prosperous country like Canada where a glass of clean water is only a few steps away, Canadians would be shocked by these statistics.

Are you satisfied with the level of NGO consultation during the International Policy Review?

WaterCan applauds the Canadian government's efforts to update its policy framework for guiding how it will interact with developing countries and the international community at large. Of course, one of the main challenges facing such a review process is how do you reconcile the often-contradictory mandates and objectives of different federal agencies that are involved with developing countries.

For WaterCan, one of strongest indicators that will show that the Canadian government has adopted a truly pro-poor and forward-looking International Policy is a clear commitment to increasing Canada's aid budget 0.7 per cent of Gross National Income within a specified timeframe (presently it stands at 0.26 per cent of GNI). Currently, five countries – Denmark, $Norway, Sweden, Netherlands, and \ Luxemburg-have \ actually$ exceeded this target, with Belgium, France, Finland, Ireland, and the UK making significant and concrete commitments towards reaching 0.7 per cent. Given that the 0.7 per cent target for aid was originally proposed by Canada's Prime Minister Lester Pearson and endorsed by the UN General Assembly in 1970, this is all the more reason why Canada should fulfill this longstanding promise to the developing world.

What makes Canadian NGOs different from counterparts around the world?

Since Canada never had a colonial legacy, it is seen as an "honest-broker" in many parts of the developing world. Canada's uniqueness is further reinforced by our bilingual national character, as evidenced by Canada's significant involvement with international bodies like La Francophonie and the Commonweath. This has allowed Canadian NGOs to develop especially strong relationships with the governments and citizens of many developing countries.

Do you interact with foreign missions and consulates in Canada?

Every year in the first week of May, WaterCan holds its exciting Annual Embassy Dinner in Ottawa. At last Spring's event, representatives from over 50 foreign embassies and high commissions offered their national dishes to more than 600 guests. The event provides Ottawa's diplomatic community with a fun and informal opportunity to network and celebrate their countries' cultures, while at the same time helping WaterCan to raise funds for its overseas work. Several months ago, Mrs. Ilham Abdulla, the wife of the Yemeni Ambassador, kindly offered to coordinate the development of a WaterCan international cookbook to help support our work. If any foreign mission in Ottawa wishes to learn more about next year's Annual Embassy Dinner (May 6,2005) or get involved with the international cookbook project, don't hesitate to contact us at WaterCan.

-Sarah McGregor

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sq.ft. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, newly renovated, open concept, all new 6 appliances, nardwood, jacuzzi tub, large balcony, parking.

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Livingroom, diningroom, beautiful hardwood floors throughout. 3 appliances, ceramic tile in kitchen and bathroom. Parking for 1 or 2 in tandem. Laundry facilities, main floor. Fenced yard. Available December 1st. \$1150/mo. includes all willities overst badro. CII. \$31.812, EEE. utilities except hydro. Call: 613-612-5559 LAURIER/BAY

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January (negotial OTTAWA EAST

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December 8 - December 14, 2004 EMBASSY: DIPLOMACY THIS WEEK

Taiwan Bridge Luncheon

The popular fundraising luncheon for Salus was hosted by Mai Chen and her husband Thomas from the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office on Nov. 30 at their Rockcliffe home.

1. Organizer Mary Jenkins (left) and hostess Mai Chen, wife of Taipei Economic and Cultural Office Representative.



Party Time



PHOTOGRAPHS BY SAM GARCIA

Albania

The Embassy of Albania celebrated its National day on Nov. 30.

- 2. Alan Baker, Ambassador of Israel; his wife, Dalia Baker, Adhurim Resuli, Ambassador of Albania; and his wife Brunilda Resuli.
- 3. Adhurim Resuli greeting Italian Ambassador Marco Colombo.

Barbados

Barbados' Independence Day was celebrated at the High Commissioner's residence on Nov. 30.

- 4. Glyne Murray, High Commissioner of Barbados, with his wife Lynnette Murray and their children Stokeley and Ayodele.
- 5. (from left) Bahamas High Commissioner Philip P. Smith and his wife Hedda, Trinidad & Tobago High Commissioner Arnold Piggott, Belize High Commissioner Amalia I. Mai, and Jeanette Kelly with her husband Graham Kelly, New Zealand High Commissioner.





Romania

Romania's National Day on Dec. 1 was celebrated at the Museum of Civilization with a concert and reception.

- 6. Liviu Maior, Ambassador of Romania, and his wife Cornelia Maior. 7. Peter Milliken, Speaker of the House of Commons; and Liviu Maior.
- 8. Miorita Teodora Simion, Third Secretary, Embassy of Romania; and Mircea Simion, First Secretary & Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Romania.







Finland

The Embassy of Finland celebrated the country's 87th anniversary of independence on Dec. 6 with a reception at the Ambassador's residence.

- (from left) Finnish Ambassador Pasi Patokallio with Mrs. Raili Aaltola and her husband Matti Aaltola, Counsellor, Embassy of Finland.
- 10. Polish Ambassador Piotr Ogrodzinski with Irish Ambassador Martin Burke.



Thailand

On Dec.6 the Embassy of Thailand celebrated its National Day, which coincides with the King's birthday, on Dec. 5.

- 11. Mrs. Patamavadee Devahastin and her husband Snanchart Devahastin, Ambassador of Thailand.
- 12. (from left) Mrs. Heba Al-Saeed and her husband Mahmoud Al-Saeed, Ambassador of Egypt, with Swedish Ambassador Lennart Alvin and his wife Liss-Carin Alvin.





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