

Keyes To The Consulate General

Former Liberal Cabinet Minister Heads To Boston • Page 2

Canada's Foreign Policy Newsweekly

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Tariff-Free Europe?

The chill over free trade discussions between EFTA and Canada is lifting, says Iceland's PM. Page 5

Canada Mute On Foreign

Canada's absence at the UN Financing for Development session didn't go unnoticed. Page 6

A Few Obscenities

Gwynne Dyer talks dirty about terrorism. Page 6

Zimbabwe Report, Part III

Insider analysis on the cause behind Operation Murambatsvina points to Mugabe's alliance with China.

The Digital Divide

Vladimir Torres explores how Latin America is joining the "E" generation with a little help from Canada. Page 7

Farewell Francisco

Filipino Ambassador returns home after 19 years representing his country abroad. Page 15



NIGER'S CRITICAL FAMINE

Canada doubles its contribution to starvation crisis

By Peter Dudley

In response to the drought and growing food crisis in Niger, Canada announced July 29 it will double its contribution to the United Nations World Food Program to \$2 million, but development organizations are saying the money is long overdue and much more is needed to save lives.

"This untied contribution ensures that urgently needed food will reach those people most affected by the drought and locust invasion in Niger," said Minister of International Cooperation Aileen Carroll, in a statement. "We will continue to assess and respond to the country's evolving needs."

Canada previously announced a \$1 million donation on July 11, and matched that amount on July 29. The contribution, although welcome. still leaves the original \$16 million U.S. appeal approximately 30 per cent short, according to World Food Program (WFP) spokesperson Stefanie Savariaud.

As well, the United Nations now says it will need to provide food for as many as 2.5 million people in Niger — up from the original target of

Diamond Control Law By Sarah McGregor low profile and somewhat unusual Apiece of legislation that will

ensure Canada complies with global reporting rules on the cross-border movement of rough diamonds is an important step in the crackdown on the illicit gem trade.

In a reverse of normal parliamentary procedure intended to expedite the process, Bill S-36 started in the Senate and was approved in June. It is expected to pass without any snags through Parliament when it resumes in the fall.

Currently, Canada publicly reveals only the number of shipments of rough diamonds that pass through ports of entry. A worrisome gap in existing legislation has meant that

the federal government is forbid-

den from publishing precise details about the value of diamond shipments, their weight in carats, and the starting point or destination of the tamper-proof gem containers.

In the bulk of diamond trading countries, those statistics are being used to identify irregular trade patterns of uncut and unpolished diamonds being shipped from country to country. National data is

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DARFUR'S GENOCIDE

Canada Set To Close An

Embarrassing Gap In Its

Garang's Death Is Bad News For Peace In Sudan

By Christina Leadlay

John Weiss's Ride Against Genocide suffered a setback over the weekend. The bicycles are still working, and the weather has been fine, but news of the death of Sudan's Vice-President John Garang makes the international ride's message all the more poignant. "I cannot see a positive outcome for the Sudanese people from this. I just cannot see that at all," says Mr. Weiss of Mr. Garang who died after a helicopter crash in Sudan on Sunday. Mr. Weiss has taken a month off from teaching History at Cornell University to bicycle from Ithaca, New York all the way to Ottawa — a 960 km journey — in order to raise awareness about the ongoing genocide, starvation and mass violence taking place in Darfur, Sudan.

Since July 11, Mr. Weiss has been cycling from Ithaca, New York via Niagara Falls, Hamilton and Toronto, en route to Ottawa, where he will hold a rally on Parliament Hill this Sunday, Aug. 7. There he plans to present a petition to the Canadian government urging policy-makers to join international efforts to end the

atrocities in Sudan. Independent MP David Kilgour, Ugandan High Commissioner Cissy Helen Taliwaku, Ambassador Rwandan Munyakayanza, and Mr. Fuad Didic, Counsellor at the Bosnian Embassy, will be joining Mr. Weiss on Sunday.

The Ride Against Genocide, which was organized by Mr. Weiss and funded mostly from his own pocket, has been going across New York State and Ontario, starting on July 11, marking the 10 year anniversary of the massacre of 7,000 Muslim men and boys in Srebrenica, Bosnia, a genocide which Mr. Weiss happened to almost witness as he was in nearby Tuzla at the time, working on getting the arms embargo lifted. This experience deeply affected him, and caused him to take action when he recognized the similar events taking place in Darfur, Sudan. "With [Darfur], it had that feeling that the same thing was happening again. So I picked up on it fairly quickly that this is one we've got to act on," he says. Mr. Weiss explains that he's had "literally a lifetime of studying genocide," from a childhood in Germany while his father interrogated people at the infamous

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Talking Points

Visit The Dalai Lama

The 14th **Dalai Lama** will visit Rutgers University in New Jersey on Sept. 25 and the Canada Tibet Committee (CTC) has reserved 50 spots for those interested in hearing his remarks. The spiritual leader will be at the university to give a speech titled 'Peace, War and Reconciliation.' Four different packages are available through the CTC ranging in price from about \$200 to \$300. Each package includes transportation from Montreal to New York, lodging in a high rated tourist hotel, and a ticket for the public talk. Contact the CTC before August 10 to reserve a spot (514-487-0665).

Off By One Vote

Washington Post economics reporter Jonathan Weisman predicted in Embassy last week that the Central American free trade agreement would squeeze through the American Congress by one vote. His estimation was only slightly off mark - the CAFTA bill narrowly succeeded in House of Representatives late July 27 with two votes, 217-215. Brooke Grantham, a spokesperson for International Trade Canada, calls the ratification of CAFTA a "positive development in that it advances a forwardlooking U.S. trade agenda." Mr. Grantham notes that, when implemented, the removal of trade barriers will give American exporters a leg up in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic. "In Costa Rica however, Canada has a three-year head start because of the Canada Costa-Rica free trade agreement... giving Canada an advantage in this market," he said. Canada is committed to a similar regional trade accord, called the CA4, he says. Those negotiations involve Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua.

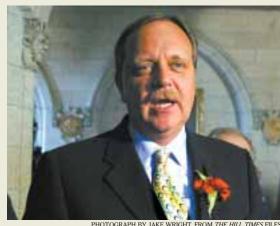
SMS Visa Tracking

The British High Commission in New Delhi announced July 22 that its outsourcing partner, Visa Facilitation Services, will allow visa applicants from India to track their visa applications to the United Kingdom by sending an SMS text message from any mobile phone. This service is an attempt to save time and make the visa process more transparent. "We are happy that VFS are providing the convenience of accessing the status of visa applications by mobile phone to Indians travelling to the UK, allowing them to manage their travel plans more efficiently," said Jeff Wilson of the British High Commission's communications department, in a press release. "This is a service unique to India and we hope that customers will find it useful."

Canada Welcomes Irish Republican Army Statement

Foreign Affairs Minister Pierre Pettigrew welcomed the Irish Republic Army's July 28 statement that it planned to disband and end its armed struggle in Northern Ireland. The IRA statement calls on its supporters to decommission their weapons and assist in the development of political and democratic programs through exclusively peaceful means. "Canada has long supported the efforts of all parties to bring peace and reconciliation to the people of Northern Ireland," said Mr. Pettigrew, in a written statement. "This decision by the IRA is an unprecedented opportunity to advance the peace process." Canada's former Chief of Defence Staff, General John de Chastelain, plays a crucial role in the peace process as head of the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning (IICD). The IICD is the organization responsible for confirming that paramilitary groups have destroyed their stockpiles of ammunition and weapons.

Diplomatic Appointments



HOTOGRAPH BY JAKE WRIGHT, FROM THE HILL TIMES FILES

A former Cabinet minister and chair of the Liberal caucus who was defeated in the last federal election has been appointed by Prime Minister **Paul Martin** as Consul General in Boston, Massachusetts. Foreign Affairs Minister **Pierre Pettigrew** unveiled the latest round of diplomatic postings yesterday and **Stan Keyes**, formerly a Hamilton-Centre MP and television reporter, was the only political appointee among the dozen names.

- Yves Brodeur becomes Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey, with concurrent accreditation to the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Georgia.
- David Collins becomes High Commissioner to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
- Louis de Lorimier becomes Ambassador to the Lebanese Republic.

• **Kenneth Cook** becomes Ambassador to the Republic of Guatemala and High Commissioner to Relize

- Marie Gervais-Vidricaire becomes Ambassador to the Republic of Austria, with concurrent accreditation as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the International Organizations in Vienna.
- **José Herran-Lima** becomes Ambassador to the Republic of Panama.
- Penny Reedie becomes High Commissioner to New Zealand, with concurrent accreditation to Kiribati.
- Guillermo Rishchynski becomes Ambassador to the Federative Republic of Brazil.
- **Isabelle Roy** becomes Ambassador to the Republic of Mali.
- **Howard Strauss** becomes High Commissioner to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.
- Colleen Swords becomes Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, with concurrent accreditation as Permanent Representative of Canada to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

Senate Appointments.

The Prime Minister's Office announced yesterday five new Senate appointments. They include: former chief of staff to **Brian Mulroney**, **Hugh Segal** (Conservative), most recently the president of the Institute for Research on Public Policy; **Dennis Dawson** (Liberal), a former Quebec MP and close advisor to Prime Minister **Paul Martin**; actress and pianist, **Andrée Champagne** (Conservative), a former Cabinet Minister, former Vancouver Mayor **Larry Campbell** (Liberal); and community leader and Manitoba businessman **Rod Zimmer** (Liberal).

CIDA Minister Aileen Carroll Visits Middle East

Canada's Minister for International Cooperation, Aileen Carroll, began a visit to the Middle East on Aug. 1. Her trip opened with a visit to the Palestinian territories, where she expressed support for efforts by the Palestinian Authority to assure a smooth Israeli disengagement from the Gaza Strip. Ms. Carroll's visit comes on the heels of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas's meeting with

Mahmoud Abbas's meeting with Prime Minister Paul Martin in Ottawa, where the PM pledged \$12.2 million in new aid to the Palestinians. Ms. Carroll's Middle East tour will also include stops

Condolence Book For Saudi King

The Embassy of Saudi Arabia is making available a Condolence Book for the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques **King Fahd bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud** of Saudi Arabia. The king passed away in Riyadh on Aug. 1. The book will be available for signing at the Chancery of the embassy, located at 99 Bank Street, between Aug. 3 and 5 from 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Governor General **Adrienne Clarkson** sent out a press release on Aug. 1 that offered condolences

on Aug. I that offered condolences to the Royal Family and the people of Saudi Arabia. "The King will be remembered for his kindness and concern not only for the citizens of his dynamic nation, but also for the peoples of the world."

Corrections

("Rallying Against So-called Islamic Terrorists" *Embassy* July 27, 2005) The date of the Iraqi community's peaceful demonstrations at Parliament Hill, the British High Commission and the Embassy of Iraq took place July 20, not June 20.

("Diplomatic Circles" *Embassy* July 27, 2005). Marie Geurkens departed Ottawa on July 21, not July 2.

("CAFTA Failure Would Benefit Canada's Trade", Embassy, July 27, 2005) Brooke Grantham is a spokesperson for International Trade Canada. His name was incorrectly spelled in last week's edition.

United Nations Warnings Went Unheeded

Continued from Page 1

1.2 million people. Food is now beginning to get into the country. Two WFP airlifts flew in emergency food supplies last weekend.

"The 70 metric tonnes of food aid (mostly high-energy biscuits), will be enough to feed 100,000 people," said WFP spokesman Trevor Rowe. "We are also moving in generators and portable warehouses."

The planes are scheduled to continue transporting emergency food supplies until Aug. 6.

The food scarcity situation in West Africa is not new. Last November the United Nations warned the international community that the 2004 drought and locust infestation would spell disaster. Unfortunately, the appeal for funding went largely unnoticed, although Canada did give \$6.5 million to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization in August 2004 in support of locust control operations in the region.

"Our current way of operating is as soon as there is a crisis or emergency, we go knocking on doors with a tin cup asking for contributions," said Mr. Rowe. "It is a very time consuming way of dealing with it and it delays the response enormously, especially when people don't respond — and that is what we have in Niger."

Emmanuel Isch, Director of Emergency Responses and Disaster Mitigation at World Vision Canada, has spent time in Niger and will be returning this week to help with relief operations. He was in Ottawa last Friday meeting with CIDA officials even though World Vision Canada does not receive any government funding for its programs in Niger.

"I have met people who have not eaten in three days," said Mr. Isch. "I have seen women who have walked 30 or 40 kilometres, with their children — who were on the verge of dying — for assistance. This is a reality in some communities in Niger.

"We have been monitoring this crisis since last summer with the locust invasion and lack of rain," he continued "When you have a crisis like this that you can more or less predict months in advance, the most effective response in this case would have been to start three or four months ago in

order to prevent the levels of malnutrition we are seeing today. The bottom line is there have been delays across the board to initiate a wider response. It's not for lack of making the issue known. In our case [World Vision Canada], for a few months now we have been warning about the crisis, but when we talked about it to the media here in Canada, there wasn't much interest," he said.

Niger is a landlocked country with a population of 12 million people. The average life expectancy is 42 years. Eighty per cent of the country is desert. Today marks the country's 45th anniversary of independence from France.

"Drought in Niger is not new," Mr. Isch said. "But every time it happens is seems to be getting worse." The other reality is that Niger has one of the highest population growths in the world — 3.6 per cent. The average woman will bear seven or eight children in her lifetime... we have a lot more mouths to feed."

Lack of food is not the only problem in the country right now. Five people have already died of cholera, according to the WFP.

As a result of funding shortfalls and poor

response times, many groups have been pushing for a better way to fund the United Nations. A special UN emergency fund will be debated at the upcoming World Summit in New York Sept. 14–16. Robert Fox, Executive Director of Oxfam Canada, is very supportive of such a fund.

"The focus of our work has been to put pressure on the Canadian government to support the new fund," Mr. Fox said. "The idea of this fund is that the United Nations would have \$1 billion that would allow it to be much more proactive in these situations. The British government has made a commitment in support of the idea. The Canadian government has been quite reticent and it is not clear to us why they are reluctant to support this idea," said Mr. Fox.

No one thinks this situation will be anything like the famine that occurred in Ethiopia in 1984.

"We are confident we will be able to raise the money," said Mr. Rowe. "It is just unfortunate that things dragged on and rather than responding and preventing the images we see, we now have to live with them."



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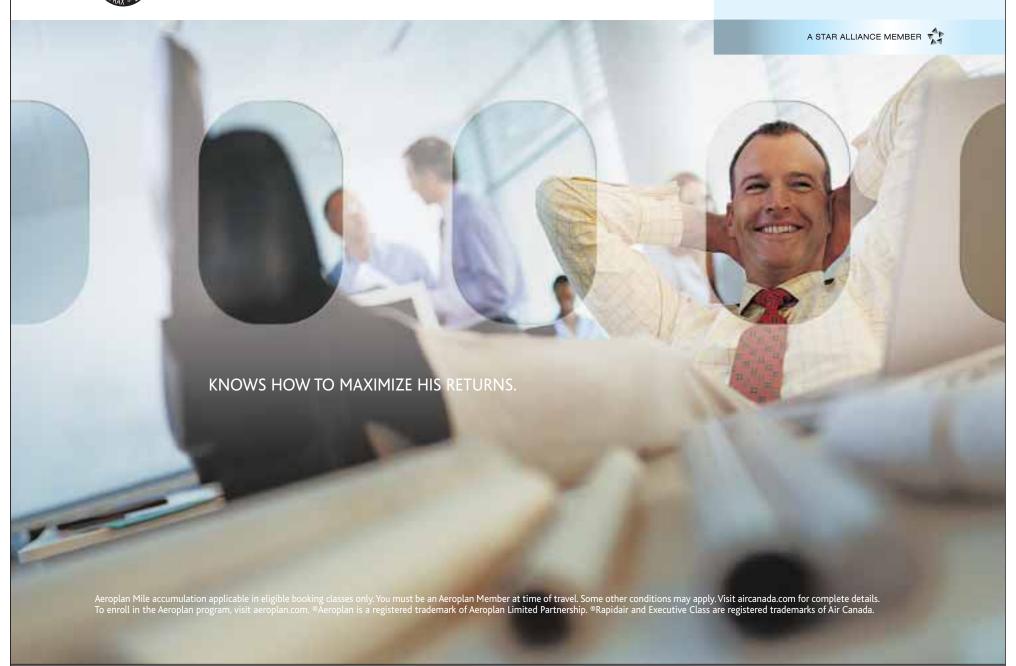
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Issue Date: September 21, 2005 **Booking Deadline: September 16, 2005**





















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Canada's Oldest Ethnic Newspaper





Steinthor Gubdjartsson, seen here with his daughter Gunna, leaves Canada at the end of August, but he leaves on a high note.

By Sarah McGregor

The first edition of *Heimskringla* almost 120 years ago was essentially a letter to family and friends from homesick Icelanders who'd settled in Canada after difficult years of famine, severe weather, volcanic eruptions and political uncertainty.

The journal was the pet project of some of the early colonizers of New Iceland, a swampy patch near Lake Winnipeg, Manitoba, as they arrived by shiploads in the late 19th century. The newspaper conveyed the stories of citizens starting a new and productive life from scratch on the land given to them by the Canadian government, while at the same time working just as vigorously to preserve the rich culture of one of Europe's oldest and coldest societies.

Canada's longest-running ethnic newspaper, circa 1886, was renamed Lögberg-Heimskringla in 1959 and is now published biweekly. It's endured re-designs and company mergers, but the most noticeable difference to readers who picked up the paper before the 1970s is the language has switched from Icelandic to English. "It's inevitable that the paper changes as the people change," says managing editor Steinthor Gudbjartsson.

The personal stories of survival and heroism have dominated the headlines from day one. Behind the scenes, generous donors and volunteers imitated those kinds of tales by rescuing the paper from the edge of economic collapse countless times. "This has been a struggle from the start," says Mr. Gudbjartsson. "It's just amazing how they managed to survive. It was just the will of the people who ran it. People were willing to donate money and do everything to keep it going.'

Times also have changed in Iceland, now one of the fastest growing economies of all industrialized countries (3.1 per cent in 2002), with unemployment at just 2.5 per cent. The UN Human Development Index places the northern European island in the top 10, thanks to the longevity of its population of about 300,000, and a virtually perfect literacy rate.

More recently, the Lögberg-Heimskringla has experienced its own remarkable turnaround due to an 18-month public relations campaign by its visionary, Mr. Gudbjartsson. He graduated from physical education at the University of Manitoba and after years coaching in Iceland he began as a sports reporter for the morning daily, Morgunbuldid. He soon began to write features for a weekly column "From the Western World" about North Americans of Icelandic descent - an impressive force of almost 300,000, of which almost one-third reside in Manitoba.

He seemed a natural choice to take over Lögberg-Heimskringla when its former editor was diagnosed with cancer. Mr. Gudbjartsson made the move back to Canada in December

2003. At head office in Winnipeg, he quickly convinced the chapters of the Icelandic National League of North America to sponsor his travel to major Icelandic settlements to stir up interest in his publication.

Readership spiked by $35\ \mathrm{per}\ \mathrm{cent}$ (from 1,300 to 1,800 subscribers) and the publication is now available on the national passenger air carrier, Air Iceland. A \$1.5 million fundraising drive was launched in the spring, and the honourary consul in Edmonton, Gordon J. Reykdal, donated more comfortable office space in downtown Winnipeg. "This is the first time we've secured such a good location," says Mr. Gudbjartsson. "The fundraising has already made it possible for us to buy new computers." The paper was once the object of corporate sponsorship but a business model has taken hold and advertising revenues are starting to roll in.

In the newsroom, Mr. Gudbjartsson is the only full-time writer and he brought to the job his own digital camera and laptop. He employs two other people on a part-time basis, an assistant editor and layout designer and an ad representative. He says he's never at a shortage for story ideas even though his target audience is such a specialized niche. His favourite piece has been a generational tale of father and son fishermen, Ted and Robert Kristjanson, casting their lines on Lake Winnipeg. He rarely covers politics, but the highly anticipated arrival of Prime Minister Hólldor Ásgrímsson this week is an obvious exception. "I just judge [story ideas] as they come. If people say they feel very strongly about the past and the ties with Iceland, that's enough reason," he says. "And it's not only for people of Icelandic descent, but also people interested in the community or people who want to be Icelandic." He jokingly refers to the latter group as IBM – Icelandic by Marriage. "You only need one drop" to be of legitimate Icelandic ancestry, he says.

Peers have taken notice of the revival of Lögberg-Heimskringla and its prime mover. In June Mr. Gudbjartsson earned an award for best feature ethnic writing from the Canadian Ethnic Journalists' And Writers' Club for a story on Edmonton's Icelandic community. The club's president, Ben Viccari, says the community papers holds a "historic place in Canada's ethnic media. It's quite a record even among first language papers.

Sadly for some, Mr. Gudbjartsson leaves at the end of August. He departs on a high note. He will return to Iceland as a full-time scribe for the Morgunbuldid. He is passing the editor's hat to David Jon Fuller, now his assistant.

"If this happened 130 years ago, then I would probably say yes [I was sad] just the like the Icelanders felt when they left Iceland and knew they could never go back," Mr. Gudbjartsson says. Mr. Fuller has worked for three editors at the paper since 1998, and says he feels like he's stepping into "some big shoes."

Free Trade Talks Reopened: Icelandic PM

Nordic cooperation, including Canada, is the pillar of Iceland's foreign policy

By Sarah McGregor

Prime Minister Paul Martin has expressed the political resolve to reopen the negotiation of a free trade agreement with four European nations that has been stalled on shipbuilding provisions, says Icelandic Prime Minister Hólldor Ásgrímsson.

The move is seen as an important development in talks that broke off five years ago when Ottawa decided to exclude the shipbuilding industry from the pact. Speaking to Embassy over the phone Aug. 2, Mr. Ásgrímsson said the leaders exchanged positive signals on reaching a trade accord when they met in Winnipeg, Manitoba on July 29.

The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) comprises Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. This curious combination of nations is the remnant of a pan-European bloc that dwindled as members departed for the European Union.

In 2000, discussions over an EFTA deal collapsed amid worries by Canada's shipbuilding industry that duty-free access to Norwegian ships would create unduly com-

petitive conditions. Cloé Rodrigue, a spokesperson for International Trade Canada says EFTA-Canada talks were suspended in May 2000. Even though April's International Policy Statement states the government will pursue EFTA, no dates have been set to do so, she savs.

Mr. Ásgrímsson, the former foreign minister of the northern European island, arrived in Manitoba last week to reconnect with family, friends and fellow Icelanders who've settled here. The Icelandic community in Canada, about 200,000 people, is equal to almost two-thirds of the country's total population. Nordic cooperation is a pillar of Iceland's foreign policy.

The following is an edited transcript of a telephone conversation on Aug. 2.

What topics did you pursue with Prime Minister Paul Martin when you met on July 29 in Winnipeg?

We have been working toward a free trade agreement between the EFTA countries and Canada for many years. I was the minister of foreign affairs for nine years so I was very much involved with that. It has been decided after the meeting that we should conclude that agreement as soon as possible... There is only one outstanding issue. I think we can find a solution on that

in the next weeks to come. It's on shipbuilding. We have made many free trade agreements with other countries. We have always been able to solve all issues.

We have also been interested in having an agreement on aviation. We would like to have a similar agreement with Canada (like) we have in the United States. There was a route between Iceland and Halifax but that was closed so many years ago because of September 11, and we would like to see such a link again.

The Arctic Impact Climate Assessment released this spring shows that global warming is damaging the environments in the Far North quicker than elsewhere. Did this sound alarm bells in Iceland?

This assessment was done when Iceland was in the chair of the Arctic Council. We are very much aware of that issue. It is quite clear that the glaciers are melting down with more speed than we had anticipated. It's a serious issue. We can say that after that assessment the United States got more concerned about it. I think it has already had an impact on nations. We signed the Kyoto Protocol, and it is very important. The energy use in Iceland is about 70 per cent from renewable energy. We have been cooperating with some nations on hydrogen, so that is one of the issues that we have been discussing, especially with the premier of Manitoba, Gary Doer, who is very interested in this.

What is your opinion of the plan announced last week by the United States, Australia and other nations to develop clean technologies to curb climate change but without targeted emission cuts?

I think we have to look at the positive side on that. It shows that these countries are also concerned. They have decided to do something about it. We, of course, would like them to be a member of the Kyoto agreement, but this is a step forward.

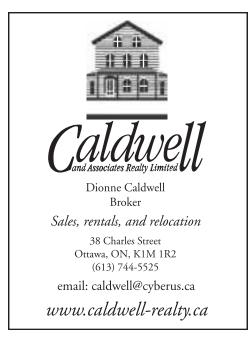
Have you seen the disturbing effects of climate change in the some of the most remote regions of Iceland?

We find it warmer than we've had for a long time. There have been changes in the climate in Iceland before — this is not the first time. But I think we can feel that there are changes going on, especially we can see it on the glaciers in Iceland. They are getting smaller all the time.



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OPINION

Financing For Development

Innovation was the focus at the UN's major review: But where was Canada?

By John Foster

While Irish rocker Bob Geldof and global anti-poverty activists were focused on the G-8, a lively UN General Assembly session was looking ahead at how to provide resources for the battle against poverty.

UK Development Minister Hilary Benn, and counterparts from France, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, and Norway, among others, joined with assorted finance ministers and officials for a two-day high level dialogue on key issues from June 27-28 in New York.

Canadian ministers were reportedly unable to attend given parliamentary urgencies, with the unfortunate result that the country's voice was almost inaudible. As a result, there was little sense from Canadian officials there about what innovative financing mechanisms, if any. Prime Minister Paul Martin supports.

Conceived in the late '90s in response to the shock of the Asian financial crisis, Financing for Development is an ongoing process that gave birth to the 2002 Monterrey International Conference of the same name. Financing for Development is unique in that it brings together governments (potentially all governments, not just a few of the most powerful or their invitees), with representatives of the World Bank, the IMF, the WTO, other key UN development agencies and representatives of the private sector and civil society. It's a big tent.

The June meetings were high level, with ministers holding fort in the gold-hewed General Assembly hall, while theme events and multi-stakeholder roundtables convened in various of the UN conference rooms and chambers. The "high-level dialogue" follows annual encounters between the major actors held after Bank/Fund meetings in the spring, and was in preparation for a focus session on financing leading into September's "Summit" Session of the General Assembly. The sessions formed a key component in preparation for that event, which will evaluate progress on the Millennium Development Goals and issues including UN reform and enhanced global security.

The June session had a definite buzz, and while anticipation about the potential for a leap forward at the G-8 contributed, the theme of innovative sources for financing development was the most provocative.

A little background is in order. In the late 1990s, the Canadian House of Commons passed a motion favouring a global tax on currency transactions (then referred to as the Tobin tax, more recently as a Currency Transaction Tax or CTT). Belgium responded to popular pressure for such an initiative. While then Canadian Finance Minister Paul Martin toyed with the idea, little progress was made for years. The key reason was U.S. resistance to any hint of "global taxation," a position which essentially gagged international discussion and UN action apart from studies, one of which was facilitated by joint Canadian and Norwegian diplomacy in 2000.

The ice broke almost two years ago with an initiative by Brazilian President

Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and French President Jacques Chirac, in what Lula called *Action Against Poverty and Hunger*. It put forward a menu of potential sources for additional development funding which would complement official development assistance, and provide sustainability and predictability beyond the annual budget allocations of donor governments. The initiative grew to include Chile, Spain, Germany and Algeria.

The menu for innovative sources includes various possibilities of global taxes, levies or "contributions", the financial facility proposal of UK Chancellor Gordon Brown, expansion of the use of the IMF's special drawing rights, facilitation remittance transfers of expatriate workers and a number of other initiatives. At a 2005 spring session of Financing for Development, French expert Jean-Pierre Landau remarked that 18 months ago it had been impossible to talk about these things, whereas in 2005 even the Development Committee at the Bank/Fund meetings took up the issue. Two broad concepts are gaining ground: an approach toward global levies, nationally administered; and the formation of groups of like-minded countries willing to undertake pilot projects.

The lead proposal at the June session was presented by the French Minister of the Economy, Finance and Industry, M. Thierry Breton, in a well-attended "sideevent" hosted by the various member governments of Action Against Poverty and Hunger. The Minister presented a working proposal for a new levy - a "contribution" — on air-tickets. The levy would not need universal acceptance to be implemented; a few countries (some already committed) could initiate it. It would be graduated (those with big seats would pay more), would be a double-benefit green tax on use of carbon fuels, and could raise as much as €10 billion annually. Meanwhile, Mr. Benn enthused that the International Financing Facility and the "contribution" were both innovative and complementary. And the German Development Minister reminded delegates that both the Currency Transaction Tax and the elimination of tax havens were essential steps forward that should be implemented as soon as possible. The atmosphere was one of practicality and forward movement.

Prime Minister Paul Martin has uttered sweet generalizations about the Lula innovative financing initiative, but no Canadian spoke at the session on innovative financing. Our Finance Department once toyed with the CTT, but no Canadian support or even interest was voiced regarding the airfare "contribution" or any other innovative proposal. While Financing for Development was in session the House of Commons passed a unanimous motion accepting the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs report favouring the 0.7 per cent foreign aid timetable and a number of other development initiatives. Nevertheless, Canada's lack of profile at Financing for Development foreshadowed a largely 'stand pat' approach to 0.7 and other key issues at Gleneagles.

-John W. Foster is a Principal Researcher with the North-South Institute

A Few Obscenities

By Gwynne Dyer

▼ et's talk dirty. The 9/11 sui-Lcide hijackers — all Arabs — attacked the United States instead of Brazil or Japan because the U.S. government has been neck-deep in the politics of the Arab world for a generation, whereas the Brazilian and Japanese governments haven't. There is a connection between Washington's Middle Eastern policies — its support for oppressive Arab regimes, its military interventions in the region, and its uncritical backing for Israeli government policies - and the fact that Americans have become the preferred targets for Islamist terrorist attacks.

Indeed, no other non-Muslim nation except Israel was a target for Islamist terrorist attacks until after the invasion of Iraq in March, 2003. And the attacks since then have been aimed at the citizens of countries that were complicit in that invasion: Londoners, not Parisians; Spaniards, not Germans; Australians holidaying in Bali, not Japanese holidaying in Malaysia.

There you have it: two full paragraphs of obscenity. Prime Minister Tony Blair himself says so. He informed us July 26 that any attempt to link the terrorist attacks that struck the London transport system on July 7, and the subsequent failed attempts on July 21, to his decision to follow the Bush administration in invading Iraq was "an obscenity."

That's nonsense, of course. All the comments in the first two paragraphs of this article are about cause and effect. You may agree or disagree with the analysis, but discussions of cause and effect are still permissible and even necessary. So how does Blair — and President George W. Bush in Washington, Prime John Minister Howard in Canberra, and their partners elsewhere - get away with forbidding us to talk about what is causing all this?

The key technique, which they all use, is to claim that any attempt to explain why these attacks are happening is also an attempt to condone and justify them.

None of their critics is actually saying that killing innocent people in suicide attacks is justifiable. But the people who insist on talking about cause and effect— about how American foreign policy radicalised a generation of Arabs, and how the invasion of Iraq convinced some deluded Muslims in other parts of the world (including in Western countries) that "Christendom" really is unleashing a crusade against the Muslim world— have to be shut up somehow.

Blair gave a virtuoso demonstration of the technique in his last press conference on July 26. He urgently needed to put some distance between his decision to invade Iraq and the phenomenon of young, British-born Muslims, not of Arab origin, blowing themselves and a large number of

Londoners up. So he deployed his considerable rhetorical skills to change the subject.

What he said was this: "It is time we stopped saying: 'OK, we abhor [al-Qaeda's] methods but we kind of see something in their ideas or they have a sliver of an excuse or a justification for it.' They have no justification for it. Neither do they have any justification for killing people in Israel. Let's just get that out of the way as well. There is no justification for suicide bombing in Palestine, in Iraq, in London, in Egypt, in Turkey, anywhere."

Nobody had actually said that suicide bombings are justified. What they are saying, in increasing numbers, is that actions have consequences, and that the reason a few young British Muslims became suicide bombers in 2005, whereas none at all became suicide bombers in 2000, is precisely the invasion of Iraq in 2003.

Blair is condemned to deny that obvious fact until the day he dies, because his only alternative is to admit that he made a huge and unpardonable mistake. George W. Bush is in a similar situation, though his main technique for denying it, even now, is to insist that the invasion of Iraq really did have something to do with fighting terrorism.

As the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency pointed out recently, the invasion of Iraq has turned the country into a breeding ground for a new generation of Arab jihadists in the Middle East. What it failed to add was that it has also spread the virus of Islamist terrorism into Muslim communities in Western countries that previously contained only a few fanatics (as any community does). Until Iraq, none of them contained people so filled with rage and so convinced that they were involved in a holy war they were willing to blow themselves and dozens of strangers up.

The problem is that the invasion of Iraq made it look (to those already susceptible to such extreme religious arguments) as if the Islamist extremists, who had barely any credibility outside the Arab world even 10 years ago, were right. If there were no terrorists in Iraq, why did Western countries invade it? Because there is a Judaeo-Christian conspiracy to destroy Islam, stupid. If there is another Islamist terrorist attack in the United States, it is more likely to come from within the resident Muslim community, as it has in Britain, than from foreign infiltrators.

Most American Muslims, like most British Muslims, are appalled by the radical doctrines that are sweeping some of their young men and women away. But it is self-serving nonsense on the part of the governments of these countries to pretend that this is just some inexplicable outburst of violence by weird Muslim people. The laws of cause and effect still rule



Seeing "The Worst Of Humanity" Prompts Cyclists To Speak Out Against Genocide

Continued from Page 1

Nuremberg trails, to choosing history in graduate school in order "to study this kind of moral centre of the 20th century which is the reduction of the variety of the human fabric which I feel is what genocide is," he says.

Mr. Weiss, a history professor who also taught a course on Sudan this past spring, explains that genocide can be understood in the metaphor of a tapestry of light. "The human race has to be seen as a mosaic of bright pieces and each of those pieces is a people," he says. "Genocide is the intentional elimination of the conditions of survival of the people, by the UN definition by killing or sterilizing or raping or particularly if you drive people away from their homes — it happened in Bosnia, it happened [in Darfur] then you are reducing the conditions of their survival as well and they start dying in concentration camps because they know their culture cannot grow, they can't flourish as a people, so that that light in the mosaic begins to get dimmer and dimmer: that's genocide," says Mr. Weiss, who is angry that Sudanese and American politicians believe and promote the idea that the genocide in Darfur is over. "It's not over, Fowler; it's not over, Rice; it's not over Zoellick," he says, passionately. "We're trying to verify that the Khartoum government is certifying the transfer of the Lord's Resistance Army Units that were in the south up to Darfur. Now, that's not the end of the genocide when you've got those characters in your country.

Mr. Weiss also has a clear idea of what is needed to stop the ongoing violence in Sudan. Disenchanted with the April 2005 proposal of sending an extra 5,000 Åfrican Union troops to help the current 2,700 strong observer mission into the region, Mr. Weiss calls for an alliance of competent nations to support each other in building an atmosphere of security in Darfur: "We knew that no single country can in fact be effective in this, and certainly not the United States," he says, citing ideas in the 2002 document Responsibility To Protect written for the International Crisis Group (ICG) by former Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans and former Algerian diplomat Mohamed Sahnoun. "What I'm proposing and what ICG's proposing is a working alliance of



John Weiss (top left) has been bicycling across New York State and Ontario on his month-long Ride Against Genocide. He had been joined en route by Meredith Herman (top centre) and Ben Fine (top right) in Toronto's Ashbridges Park last week. Elvir Camdzic (below), originally from Bosnia, accompanied Mr. Weiss on the American leg of his journey.

African countries that we know have good units and that we've worked with before,' says Mr. Weiss. "I would name Ghana, South Africa, Rwanda, possible others. Tunisia maybe. They [would be] an alliance with people who can ship them around, work with surveillance, and all this kinds of stuff. Who is that: Australia has offered in the past, the British have offered, also the Canadians, Germans and Italians. And it could be Canadian led," says Mr. Weiss. And they start working together and they are the ones who land in Darfur, they are the ones who operate," says Mr. Weiss. "Now the other way to do it would be the UN to authorize moving to Chapter Seven and actually going in there with a serious protection mandate that they can enforce and that is favoured by a number of people I've talked to in groups working for Darfur here, including STAND Canada.'

The Ride Against Genocide is pretty much a one-man show, with Mr. Weiss the only cyclist who's biked the entire route. Participants have joined him at various

points along the way, including Ben Fine with STAND Canada who took part in the Toronto leg of the odyssey late last week. "I felt obligated to do my part to raise awareness of the atrocities in Darfur in a fight to put the issue on the top of Canadians' agenda," says Mr. Fine by email. "We want Canadians to speak out and demonstrate their demand for Canadian action to bring security to Darfur." As a member of the Jewish faith, Mr. Fine explains that his visits to the concentration camps in Poland, seeing "the worst of humanity," has prompted him to speak out against genocide. Mr. Fine feels that the international community has failed in its leadership by submitting to the political pressure of "the world's worst human rights offenders," leading to the continued presence of genocide in the 21st century. On July 28, Canada announced that it would lend 105 armoured vehicles to the African Union for a one-year period as part the \$137 aid package announced by Prime Minister Paul Martin in May 2005. "Paul Martin must carry the people of Darfur on his back, bringing world leaders together to end the crisis in Darfur. Canada must stand by its commitment to the responsibility to protect and act to strengthen the African Union troop force, providing logistic and funding support and broadening their mandate to include active protection of civilians," says Mr. Fine.

Meanwhile, the death of John Garang appears to be a major setback in peace efforts in Sudan. "The death of [Sudan's Vice-President] John Garang represents a significant threat to the peace process for southern Sudan," says Sudan researcher and analyst Eric Reeves. "The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) of Jan. 9 was already tenuous in many respects [but] with Mr. Garang's death, it will be exceedingly difficult for the SPLM leadership to sustain, with full authority, the various terms of the CPA," says Mr. Reeves, who also teaches at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. "[Mr. Garang] is quite simply irreplaceable, and it will be the challenge of Salva Kiir, his formally designated successor, to create an effective leadership council, and ensure that the SPLM does not splinter," says Mr. Reeve. "If that legacy is lost to infighting and leadership struggles, peace will be short-lived."

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Zimbabwe's Chinese Puzzle

The conclusion of *Embassy*'s three-part series on Zimbabwe by **Archbishop Pius Ncube**, **Dr. Roger Bate**, and **Richard Tren**

Speculation over the motives behind Operation Murambatsvina has pointed to the removal of local competition threatening newly arrived Chinese businessmen whose stores sell cheap and often poor quality goods. It is estimated that, as a result of the government's aggressive "Look East" policy, up to 10,000 Chinese citizens have moved into the country, and some have moved onto farms taken from highly skilled commercial farmers, notably to grow tobacco for China's 300 million smokers.

Chinese investors are reported to have interests in Hwange colliery, electricity generation and platinum mining. According to a Bloomberg report, "For China, investment in Zimbabwe may provide access to minerals the country needs to fuel its growing economy." The Zimbabwean government has also purchased goods from China, such as three commercial airplanes, buses, K-8 jet trainers and military vehicles, small armaments and riot control equipment.

Economic and Social Considerations

The licensing of stallholders has been taken out of the control of the city councils, which are dominated by the opposition MDC members, and applications are being dealt with by interministerial committees. It is these committees that will decide which stallholders are successful (aided by a vetting process carried out by the police), and where they will be allowed to operate. Land vacated by razed settlements is already having plots pegged out in it for houses to be built, which are reportedly being reallocated to police, army and party officials, which is consistent with Mugabe's past method of rewarding those who do his grizzly bidding.

Official employment is low since the collapse of the agriculture and tourism sectors, but many people work informally and are being supported by foreign currency sent in by friends and family working abroad. Most of this money is not passing through banks or attracting tax. The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) estimates the parallel trade supported by the 'Diaspora forex' represents 60 per cent of GDP, and that only 10 per cent (or U.S. \$4 million), a month is channeled through the formal bank system. The RBZ aims to increase this to \$70 million per month. The bank's governor, Gideon Gono, is approving the "clean up" presumably in the hope that informal currency mechanisms will be disrupted.

International And Regional Responses

Zimbabwe is in violation of its own laws, but it is unlikely that courts will uphold complaints against the police and government. However, Zimbabwe has also contravened international laws and conventions to which it is a signatory. The UN has a principle under which it can decide to intervene: "Where a population is suffering serious harm, as a result of internal war, insurgency, repression or state failure, and the state in question is unwilling or unable to halt or avert it, the principle of nonintervention yields to the international responsibility to protect."

In a statement issued on June 3, the Special Rapporteur of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Miloon Kothari, urged the government to immediately halt the forced evictions. He reminded Zimbabwean authorities of their obligations under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which Zimbabwe ratified in 1991. On June 28, Anna Tibaijuka, the Tanzanian head of UN Habitat, arrived in Zimbabwe to judge the impact of Operation Murambatsvina for Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Condemnation of the operation from the U.S. and European governments was swift and firm. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and UK Foreign Secretary Jack Straw both decried the operation and urged African Union members to push Mugabe's government to respect the rule of law and human rights.

More than 200 international, African and Zimbabwean human rights groups have called on the AU and the UN to stop the mass evictions. Amongst the human rights and civic groups signing the Joint Appeal are Zimbabwean Lawyers for Human Rights, the Inter Africa Network for Human Rights (AFRONET), Amnesty International, the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE), the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute, and the International Crisis Group. The coalition called on relevant bodies at the UN, including the Secretary-General, to publicly condemn the ongoing mass violations and take effective action to stop them.

African Responses

Morgan Tsvangirai, leader of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) has requested an internationally supervised, legitimate transitional authority to lead Zimbabwe out of the present crisis. This requires a rescue package which must, at least, include: food, fuel, medicine, foreign currency, support for the displaced people and funds for the rebuilding of homes.

Mr. Tsvangirai has been to Ghana and Mauritius and met President Obasanjo of Nigeria. He will shortly be meeting with Ms. Rice and has held meetings with South African ministers, including President Mbeki. South Africa is already under tremendous pressure regarding Zimbabwe and the aim is to try to work with President Mbeki and offer him the solution of the transitional authority (perhaps by agreeing to both exit strategy for Mugabe and a Truth Commission, not unlike that which

occurred in South Africa). While support for a transitional authority would be required from the UN and possibly from the European Union as well, the support of the AU would also be essential.

So far however, responses from the AU and African governments to the disgraceful Zanu-PF actions and Tsvangirai's suggestions have been muted at best, refusing to take action against what it terms an internal matter. With its close economic and political links, many see South Africa as the key to restoring peace and democracy to Zimbabwe. Despite growing pressure from civil society and church groups, the South African government has been all but silent over Operation Murambatsvina. Responding to the UK Foreign Secretary's request for South Africa to act against Zimbabwe, South Africa's Presidential Spokesperson Bheki Khumalo questioned what he termed a "bogeyman approach being used to scare African countries, like children, into conforming with the ' He said South Africa refused to accept the notion that it must appease G-8 leaders because Mbeki was attending the summit in Scotland. "We do things because we believe they are correct and right."

This approach is consistent with South African Foreign Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma's March 2003 statement that South Africa will "never" condemn its Zimbabwean counterpart. "It is not going to happen as long as this government is in power," she told journalists.

Some African governments have explicitly approved of Operation Murambatsvina. At a housing seminar in Cape Town on July 4 2005, the Kenyan Minister of Housing, Amos Kimunya, is reported to have "sympathized with the actions of the Zimbabwean government" and noted that "however painful, evictions are necessary."

A statement issued by the General Council of the Bar of South Africa expressing solidarity with "those who call on the nation states of Africa to openly condemn the operation" has reminded the South African and African governments that they are signatories to the African Charter. As such, they have "accepted the obligation to protect and promote human and peoples' rights and freedoms on the continent."

In an attempt to restore credibility to President Mbeki's flagship development program, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), Reuel Khoza, Chairman of the NEPAD Business Foundation accused the AU of shirking responsibility for Zimbabwe. Indeed, it is difficult to imagine how the African Peer Review Mechanism, a key element of NEPAD, will ever be taken seriously when such egregious violations of human rights are not condemned or even criticized.

Despite their reluctance to condemn the latest wave of violence against Zimbabweans, the country's neighboring states are likely to be negatively affected. These countries are

already struggling to cope with the constantly rising number of Zimbabwean exiles and refugees. South Africa alone has an estimated 3 million Zimbabwean refugees, the vast majority of whom have not been granted any official status and whom survive on the margins of society, often reliant on charity. The social and economic pressures of more refugees in neighboring countries, particularly Botswana and South Africa, are only likely to worsen. In a recent report we document the disastrous health consequences for Zimbabwe and its neighbours of inaction over Zimbabwe.

Africa's political leadership has clearly chosen to ignore the statement by the coalition of more than 200 human rights groups that "African solidarity should be with the people of Africa – not their repressive leaders."

The Way Forward

As the leaders convene for their G-8 meeting, they should demand not just fiscal responsibility, but improving regional democracy as well as a condition of debt relief and aid. The test of SADC and the AU should not just be about "selling" the region to investors, and other "good" news, but addressing the hard issues, such as promoting Zimbabwean democracy.

As a result, African leaders must have their comfort and complacency undermined unless they promise action. If not, the G-8 leaders will be rewarding bad behavior by giving debt relief without demanding action, and tacitly condoning Mugabe's actions.

The West may feel it is not appropriate for them to act (militarily at least) on Zimbabwe, notably because they will be criticized as imperialists by Africans. However, Western leaders should not reward those with the regional responsibility who have failed in their moral duty to protect the lives of vulnerable Zimbabwean citizens. Furthermore, the potential destabilization of the region, due to escalating refugee numbers and the uncontrolled spread of HIV/AIDS, increases the regional risk significantly, further impacting on vested interests. Ultimately, African leaders must accept that they are playing into the hands of those who perceive the continent as a failure and a breeding ground for despots. In order to gain essential support of the international community, African leaders must prove their commitment to the rule of law, the protection of innocent civilians and the protection of property rights, as well as taking responsibility for their actions, both fiscal and moral.

-Archbishop Pius Ncube is the Catholic Archbishop of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe; Dr. Roger Batem is a Resident Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, Washington, D.C.; and Richard Tren is the Director of Africa Fighting Malaria, Johannesburg, South Africa

They prepared this report for the Solidarity Peace Trust.



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Bridging The Digital Divide In The Americas

Canada's Quebec City commitment worth renewing

By Vladimir Torres

When discussing the many inequalities of our hemisphere, one recurrent issue is the so-called digital divide. This divide exists not only along the traditional lines of north/south disparities (developed versus developing countries) but also within countries when comparing urban and rural areas and particularly the social structure of wealthy minorities and poverty-stricken majorities.

In the context of the knowledge economy, the new technologies play a double role; on one hand, in enhancing the gap between those that have the access and those that do not by virtue of magnifying the differences in education, capacities, infrastructure and resources; and on the other, in providing unprecedented opportunities for bridging the divide thanks to the potential multiplying effects on democratic development, job creation, education, and access to services that the digital era brings. The key issue then is how to develop and implement the projects and programs that would realise that potential.

As with many of the other developmental issues in our continent, political will and the government's commitment to a shared agenda is just the first step.

At the Summit of the Americas in Quebec City in 2001, the Heads of State unveiled the Connectivity in the Americas initiative. Two documents addressing this issue came out of the Summit. The first statement, "Connecting the Americas" committed the signatories to move towards expanding access to global knowledge and full integration into the knowledge society, particularly in developing countries, smaller economies, and among rural and disadvantaged groups. This was to be conducted in keeping with the common goals of sustainable economic growth and social development, and particularly the overarching objective of poverty reduction.

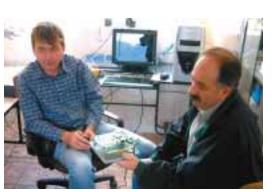
The second document contained the specific Canadian contribution to this issue in the Quebec City Summit: to create the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA) building on the success and experience of the Connecting Canadians strategy and Canada's international development and information and communications technology (ICT) programs. The document describes the mandate of the ICA, its structure, priority themes and programs, and guidelines

The next Summit of the Americas is fast approaching, and with the issue of connectivity so intrinsically linked to its main theme "Creating Jobs to Fight Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance", ICA has the opportunity to showcase the work it has carried out since it became operational in 2002











The Institute for Connectivity in the Americas launched a WiFi (Wireless Fidelity) pilot project in El Chaco, Ecuador in January 2005. Canadian Ambassador Brian Oak (bottom right, centre) was on hand at the opening ceremony.

ing for attention among so many pressing issues, connectivity has a direct impact across the board above and beyond traditional infrastructure matters. This overarching and multiplying effect can be demonstrated by some of the projects already in place.

Of the more than 60 initiatives undertaken so far, the "@Campus initiative" currently implemented by Mexico is an e-learning platform for its public service employees worth highlighting. Other E-government projects within and between countries, employing a multifaceted approach that encompasses capacity building, multilateral integration efforts, and the development of government platforms for citizens' access to services and participation are showcasing the benefits to increasing interconnectivity.

Another critical area is represented by those projects that enable the adoption of ICT by the Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs). These projects are a clear illustration of the viability of joint initiatives with multiple stakeholders from the private sector, but beyond that, the real potential economic impact for Latin American and Caribbean countries lies in job creation and the re-insertion of workers from the informal sector into the formal economy.

Educational initiatives are at the forefront of poverty alleviation actions, and in this area, once again, connectivity plays a multiple role. of, locally produced content is being enabled through projects such as the Latin American Network of Education Portal. The "Computers for Schools" is another program worth noting; it has so far focussed on training and knowledge transfer and is currently in different stages of planning or implementation in seven Latin American countries.

Key to the success of educational initiatives and others aimed at improving basic public services, such as health, are those projects that would ensure Internet access in remote, un-served and underserved areas of Latin America. Among these, the "Wireless Fidelity" project incorporates the use of wireless technologies to bring together multiple facilities in remote locations, aggregating the benefits, accessibility and reach of separate community-based services. Another project currently underway is "E-Link America", aimed at delivering affordable high-speed Internet connectivity to remote locations.

ICA has also contributed with many multilateral integration initiatives through the creation of online products and databases for the region. From an ICT Project Inventory to a Connectivity Map of the Americas and a database of ICT experts, a wealth of useful information has been made readily available.

It is safe to say that when it comes to connectivity Canada is certainly living up to the commitments made in Quebec. The continuantee their success, the ICA mandate should be renewed in accordance with the guidelines contained in the International Policy Statement. The achievements described are the best argument for pursuing this course of action, renewing the funding and the necessary institutional support.

The commitment from all the countries of the Americas should be entrenched in the multilateral goals for the region that will be expressed in the "declaration" and the "action plan" to come out of this year's Summit of the Americas. Through the iterations in the process of drafting the aforementioned documents, Canada has pointed out that some of the principles in the Declaration have crosscutting implications for the initiatives that will be pursued under the plan of action and deserve to be highlighted. Listed among these is "connectivity as a process and approach rather than a hardware issue.'

The declaration's latest draft already includes a paragraph reaffirming how the innovative use of ICT would make the efforts towards improved economic prosperity and social well-being more effective. Let us hope that this will translate into specific commitments in the action plan and that the Canadian government ensures that our country continues to play the leading role in the hemisphere on this key issue.

-Vladimir Torres is an Ottawa-based Latin



EMBASSY Listings

Independence, commemorating the country's 1960 declaration of independence from France. Contact the embassy (613-232-4291)

Pirotechia Reves Leamy Lake, Gatineau, Quebec (613-771-3389). Prices vary. As part of the 10th edition of the Casino du Lac-Leamy's Sound of Light festival, the award-winning Mexican team Pirotechia Reyes will perform their show called "Mexican History." This familybased company uses ancient traditions while adapting them to new technology.

Chamberfest: Nash Ensemble Dominion Chalmers United Church, 355 Cooper Street (613-234-8008; www.chamberfest.com). 12 p.m. Prices Vary. British group The Nash Ensemble performs the music of Mozart and Dvorak.

Chamberfest: Jaap ter Linden St. Giles Presbyterian Church, 82 Kent Street (613-235-2551). 2 p.m. Prices Vary. Dutch cellist Jaap ter Linden is joined by David Breitman to perform works by Beethoven

Israeli-Palestinian Peace Camp **Fundraiser** *Great Hall, Ashbury College, 362 Mariposa Avenue (613-749-5954). 5 – 7 p.m.* \$100. Peace Camp Canada will be raising money for its unique camp, where $10 \, \text{Israeli}$ and 10 Palestinian teens attend an 11-day camp together. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be served at the fundraiser

Thursday August 4

Art Exhibit: Windows From China Calligrammes Gallery, 21 Murray Street (613-241-4732). Through August 4. This exhibition presents oil paintings by two renowned artists from Central China. Wang Shengli and Pan Xiao Dong. The exhibit is being touted as 'peasant paintings from Huhsien County in China's Shensi Province.

Conference: "Handcuffs and Hand Grenades" Geneva Park Conference Road,

Rama Road, Orillia, Ontario. (416-494-1440; couch@couch.ca). Through August 7. Experts from across the globe tackle "Handcuffs and Hand Grenades: The Use of Force Within and Between Nations" in this year's Couchiching Conference. Speakers include General (Ret'd) Lewis Mackenzie, Dr. Peter Bradley and Dr. Paul Heinbecker.

Friday August 5

Bolivia's August 6 **Independence Day** is being celebrated with a Mass at 5 p.m. at the Notre-Dame Cathedral Basilica on Sussex Drive. The service will be followed by refreshments served in the Cathedral's refectory. The day commemorates the country's independence in 1825 from Spain. Contact the embassy (613-236-5730).

On the Beach Ottawa Public Library, Corner of Laurier and Metcalfe Streets, Auditorium (613-565-6252). 6:15 p.m. Donations accepted. The classic film On the Beach shows a disturbing take on the impact of nuclear weapons. Starring Gregory Peck, Ava Gardner and Fred Astaire. Dir. Stanley Kramer. USA, 1959. Shot in black and white.

Ottawa Caribbean Festival Prinzo's Banquet hall, 85 O'Connor Street (613-729-1408). 8 p.m. Through August 14. See festival preview.

My Sassy Girl Old Technical High School, Corner of Bronson and Slater Streets (613-244-5044). 8:30 p.m. Free. The Korean Embassy's Culture and Information Service has teamed up with Centretown Movies to present My Sassy Girl, a film about Kyun-Woo, a kind-hearted but naïve college student who meets a femme fatale on the subway. Mystified by her bizarre behavior but mesmerized by her beauty, Kyun-Wood soon finds himself embroiled in a scheme involving kidnapping and other hilarious adventures. Dir. Kwak Jae Young. Korea, 2001. Korean, with English subtitles.

Chamberfest: An Afternoon of Song St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 82 Kent Street (613-232-9042). 4 p.m. Prices Vary. Two of Britain's top singers, tenor Rufus Muller and bass-baritone Michael George, perform with pianist Patricia Reiner

Saturday August 6

Jamaica celebrates its 43rd
Independence Day, which commemorates the country's 1962 independence from the United Kingdom. The 15th annual Jamday festival, which spans three days this year, marks the event. Jamday's main day features children's games and activities, a 3on-3 basketball tournament for youth and Jamaican delicacies. Contact the Jamaican (Ottawa) Community Association for details (613-233-9311).

Indian Film Festival: Monsoon

Wedding Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Auditorium (613-232-6727). 7 p.m. \$9; \$6 members. The hilarious and touching story of the extra-large Verma family, who reunite in New Delhi for an arranged wedding, only to find the family's secrets, anxieties and controversies brought to the surface. Dir. Mira Nair. India 2001. Hindi, with English subtitles.

Hiroshima & Nagasaki

Commemorations Religious Society of Friends' (Quakers) Meeting House, 91A Fourth Avenue (613-565-6252). 7 p.m. The Pine Gate Chorus and an Ottawa-based Hiroshima survivor will be at this event commemorating the victims of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Sunday August 7

Cote d'Ivoire's Independence Day recognizes the country's independence from France in 1960. Contact the embassy (613-236-9919).

Ride Against Genocide Parliament Hill,

(www.weaversofthewind.org). 2 p.m. The 960km bicycle journey undertaken to raise awareness of genocide in Sudan that began in Ithaca, New York, finishes on Parliament Hill. Speakers include MP David Kilgour; Cissy Helen Taliwaku, High Commissioner of Uganda; Eugene Munyakayanza, Ambassador of Rwanda; and Fuad Didic, Counsellor, Embassy of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Indian Film Festival: Zubeidaa Library and Archives Canada, 395

Wellington Street, Auditorium (613-232-6727). 7 p.m. \$9; \$6 members. Zubeidaa tells a story of Rayiz, a young man in search of his deceased mother's identity He discovers a woman far removed—and far racier —than the one he had been led to believe existed. Dir. Shyam Benegal. India, 2001. Hindi, with English subtitles

Monday August 8
Exhibition: Alberta and

Saskatchewan Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography, 380 Sussex Drive (613-991-4793). Through October 28. Prices vary. This special exhibition, titled "Alberta and Saskatchewan 1905-2005: A Centennial Celebration," commemorates the centenary of the two provinces' entry into Confederation.

Tuesday August 9

Colombian Ballet Centrepointe Theatre, 101 Centrepointe Drive (613-230-3760). 7 p.m. By invitation only. The Folkloric Ballet of Antioquia from Colombia will present its highly-regarded show, Colombia Viva

Exhibit: Buddhas, Bangkok and Beyond Darshan Gallery, 113 Murray Street (613-241-7020). Through August 28. Liza Linklater's exhibition of black-and-white

photographs of Asia, Buddhas, Bangkok and Beyond, has been extended to August 28.

Wednesday August 10

Ecuador's Independence Day celebrates the country's 1822 declaration of independence. Contact the embassy (613-

NAC Guided Tour National Arts Centre, 52 Elgin Street, Main Lobby (613-755-1111). \$1. Through September 3rd. The NAC offers 30-45 minute guided tours of the historic building.

Guatemala Fiesta and Fundraiser National Press Club, 165 Sparks Street (613-233-5641). 6 p.m. \$40 plus donation. Guatemalan Ambassador Carlos Jimenez and Sara E. Martinez De Jimenez will be hosting a fundraising dinner for Guatemala at the National Press Club.

ODA Outing Leamy Lake, Gatineau, Quebec (613-238-9480). \$15. Doors 6 p.m.; show 9 p.m. The Ottawa Diplomatic Association is offering a limited amount of tickets to a fireworks show put on by the award-winning Spanish company, Pirotecnia Turis. The event takes place as part of the Sound of Light Festival Fireworks. Contact the number above for more information.

Caribbean Festival







A Trip To The Caribbean

The 15th annual Ottawa Caribbean Festival — or Caribe-Expo 2005 — takes place on Aug. 5, 7, and Aug. 11-14. Although not as big as the ones in Toronto and Montreal, Ottawa's Caribbean Festival is growing and brings together people from all walks of life to share in the rich cultural heritage of the Caribbean community. There are literally dozens of activities to participate in. Some of the

highlights include a Calypso Competition at 8 p.m. on August 5 at Prinzo's Banquet Hall; a Children's Carnival at 3 p.m. on August 7 at City Hall's Festival Plaza (111 Laurier St. East); as well as shopping at the Caribbean Market Place and a Cultural Showcase at 6 p.m at Festival Plaza on August 11. See Listings for details.

—Jordan Michael Smith



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Stronger Kimberley Process In Canada Could Put Pressure On U.S.

Continued from Page 1

compared among the 43 signatories to the international diamond control system known as the Kimberly Process, which came into force 18 months ago.

The certification scheme is designed to trail the route of diamonds from the mine to the cutter, and in doing so ensure the profits aren't financing wars or contributing to other human rights abuses. While only Canada and the United States fall outside one aspect of the system — the standardized reporting — it is sometimes enough to break the traceable chain of movement.

The Kimberley Process involves nations that account for all but one per cent of global production and trade. That adds up to \$8.5 billion in annual production and more than \$20 billion in trade, according to 2004 num-

"The whole point of the exercise is to compare data with other countries," says Ian Smillie, research coordinator for Partnership Africa Canada, a leading non-governmental organization in the fight against blood diamonds. "There must be a common system that everyone uses.'

If passed, Bill S-36 will also remove Canada from a potentially embarrassing situation as the chair of the Kimberley Process Statistics Working Group, charged with supervising and analyzing the flow of reliable data. Mr. Smillie calls it a matter of both "principle and optics."

It was during the Kimberley Process plenary meeting in Gatineau last October that the failure of Canada to adopt the more rigorous reporting technique was highlighted as an issue that threatened to undermine the basic purpose of the Kimberley Process.

By most accounts, Natural Resources Canada, the department that manages the program, moved swiftly to rectify the situation by drafting an amendment to the Export and Import of Rough Diamonds Act. The fact those provisions weren't originally included



Canada has shown that they had a problem and are acting relatively quickly to address it, and the United States should be acting the same way.

in the legal framework wholeheartedly endorsed by Parliament in 2002 is seen as a lapse in judgment by its drafters.

Without the political will to move the recent legislation ahead the amendment could have been delayed until 2006-2007 when the certification scheme is up for review.

Liberal Senator Bob Peterson, who was asked by the Deputy Senate Leader to introduce the bill, says his training as an engineer made him an ideal candidate to put forward the technical amendment. "When something is the right thing to do it's amazing how quickly it can progress," he says. "This obviously was-

n't a contentious or a complicated bill."

During the Senate debate this spring, Conservative Senator Consiglio Di Nino described the Kimberley Process as a way to "stop certain diamond-producing countries from selling diamonds as a means to fund many of the world's worst atrocities by some of the worst tyrants, butchers and despots in the world." He cited the 30-year Angolan Civil War that ended in 2002, but not before the main rebel group, UNITA, slaughtered 500,000 people and displaced hundreds of thousands more. He said UNITA controlled the revenues of 70 per cent of the country's

abundant sources of mining.

"Publication of the KPCS export-import statistics will allow Canada to show the world that we are committed to the KPCS and will set an example for other countries to follow. Canada understands that regulations must be efficient and effective if they are to address properly the needs of all stakeholders," says Senator Di Nino

Canada is the world's third largest diamond producer in value, with mine production worth \$2.1 billion in 2004. National production, however, is set to explode over the next three years with the opening of mineral operations in Nunavut, the Northwest Territories and Ontario.

Bob Lomas, Director of the special projects division of the mineral and metals sector of Natural Resources Canada says he doesn't expect any outcry from diamond industry stakeholders about greater transparency in the reporting. He says the private information of companies buying or selling the minerals will remain as such. "I think it certainly is a good step in allowing the increasing comparison of trade data, says Mr. Lomas.

In Washington, Corinna Gilfillan, leader campaigner for Global Witness, says the American Clean Diamond Trade Act calls for U.S. leadership on the effective use of statistics to curb the illicit diamond trade. Even still, the government persistently fails to adequately report on and analyze of the flow of the gems, she says. "Canada has shown that they had a problem and are acting relatively quickly to address it, and the United States should be acting the same way. Unfortunately, it seems to be a low priority within the government," she says. "The fact that Canada is moving forward on this does put more pressure on the U.S. to resolve the issue.'

The Kimberly Process is essentially selfenforced which some critics say is one of its major weaknesses. Amnesty International believes that mandatory monitoring could guarantee compliance.

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Wedding Services

Writing/Editing

Houses for Rent ...

0010 RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE

AYLMER - UNIQUE CHANCE 342 de Honfleur, prestigious 6-bedroom home, brick, hardwood, ceramic, marble, double garage, 1-acre lot. 613-282-2030.

BROWNSTONES ON THE CANAL

Immaculate 2 bedroom freehold home Beautiful Canal views, from den, living room and master bedroom 20 minute walk to Parliament hill and Byward Market, 5 minutes to the University of Ottawa and transitway. Many upgrades and custom changes including marble firenlace stained alass front door wainscoting. \$399,000. 613-233-7232 www.grapevine.on.ca #7017

LAKE MCARTHUR

\$189,900. Beautiful flower gardens, 30 minutes from Alonzo Wright Bridge. Walk out basement. Kitchen PVC cabinets, luxurious bathroom, master bedroom with view of lake. Cathedral ceilformal dining room. **GATINEAU \$239,000 luxurious condo 3rd floor elevator, security, indoor parking, c/a open concept, laundry room + second bathroom. www.dynadf.ca Agence Immobiliere Dyna D.F. 613-223-3962

LUXURY HOUSE - SALE OR RENT 4-bedroom, marble/ceramic floors, 6 appliances. Immediate. \$1395 or \$369,000. 613-773-0744

MONTE BELLO

\$995 or for sale. Mountain top near Mont Villa. Beautiful view 4.66 acres, renovated 2 bedrooms, cathedral ceiling, box stove, sky light. Studio and other buildings **CHELSEA - \$1650/mo beautiful coun try home wooden floors cathedral ceilings, wood fireplace, all appliances. 5 minutes from Hull. Available immediately to July 31, 2006. 613-223-DYNA (3962). Falardeau, Agence Immobiliere DYNA DF. www.dvnadf.ca

OTTAWA SOUTH MUST SEE** 1229 St. Paul Ave. MUST SEE** 1229 St. Paul Ave. Beautiful 3+1 brick bungalow, mint con-dition, hardwood, a/c, excellent loca-tion! \$267K. 613-731-5871. www.grapevine.on.ca ID#7227

PERTH 10 minutes West of Perth. 1 mile off highway 7. 3 bedroom house. 47 acres, barn and pond. Would make a great horse

farm, picturesque. Beautiful grounds, half-built in late 1800's. Renovated, wildlife. \$295,000. (613) 264-1105. ROCKLAND - NEW CONSTRUCTION Beautiful, 3 bedroom home, on Heritage Dr. approximately 1,400 square fee Excellent price. For info 613-446-0999

0012 WATERFRONT PROPERTIES

LAKE MCMULLEN/ST. PIERRE DE WAKEFIELD, QC

Impeccable 2 storey house, 2 garages, landscaping, 30 minutes to downtown. \$274,900. 819-561-1228. www.privatehomesales.org #5611228

LAKE ONTARIO WATERFRONT South facing. 3 acre lots on Wolfe Island.

All lots feature: gentle slope to water's edge, sandy loam drainage, natural surroundings, mature trees, access road, docking facility & hydro on or near lots. 14 miles to Kingston ferry, 16 miles to New York Ferry. Call the Waterfront Sales King Roger Dailey Associate Broker @ 1 866-382-2262 ReMax Riverview Realty www.remaxriverview.com



SOOTHE YOUR SOUL Just a small sample of the fabulous views from this unique, 14-acre former Oblate priests retreat on a 22-mile long, superb fishing lake, 1.5 hours from Ottawa. Surrounded by by Crown land, wilderness peace and tranquility. The ultimate in pri vacy. Very rare opportunity. \$550,000. Nancy Greenwood 819-459-2355. Century 21 MacIntyre Inc. Real Estate Broker, www.c21macintyre.com

0015 OUT OF TOWN PROPERTIES

FOR SALE BY OWNER

Circa 1824 log home with addition. 2.5 acres Convenient to town of Perth 4 family or nature lovers. TLC by present owner. Viewing by appointment. New Price \$249,900. Quick closing. www.privatelist.com 613-264-2688. Must sell due to health.

0016 PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

BARTOSEK ENTERPRISES INC. PROPER-TY MANAGEMENT

Specializing in renting and caring for private homes. For more information: Call 613-852-0881

0020 CONDOS FOR SALE

613-257-4972

BASELINE/CLYDE 2 bedroom, 12th floor. Immediate. 2 indoor parking, appliances included. Well located, well maintained. \$165,500.

DOWNTOWN

One bedroom + den in new "The Laurier", 10 minutes walk to the Hill. Hardwood, granite, 6 appliances, 9' ceilings, underground parking included. Fitness centre and indoor pool. \$239,900. January 2006 closing. Call Max Guenette, 613-234-6228

EXCLUSIVE AT THE SUSSEX \$629,900 New list! Rare opportunity at this presti-gious Ottawa address with a million dol-lar view including Parliament Hill, Lower Town and Gatineau Hills, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, in suite laundry, 2 indoor parking. T. Steenbakkers, Gale Company Ltd. Realtor, 613-829-2020.

HULL

Penthouse condo. 3 bedroom, 2 storey, marble floors, f/p, 5 appliances, underground parking, pool/gym/BBQ, security, 10 minute walk to Byward Market. , 289,000 or rent. Call George: 705-569-2316

NEW CONDO ON THE OTTAWA RIVER @Bold & Centred:CHAMPLAIN PLACE/HULL

A few minutes from Parliament Hill and downtown Ottawa surrounded by golf courses and bicycle paths. 2 bedrooms. \$1,280 sq. ft. included outdoor parking. \$235,000. For more details please contact Rene at 613-282-0341.

PARKWAY/TUNNEY'S

Bright, spacious, 2 bedroom, c/a, laminate/ceramic throughout, huge balcony, river view, 3 appls. large parking, securi-ty, walk to Westboro Village & Parkdale Market. Immaculate move in condition. \$174,900. 613-792-3529.

SANDY HILL - PRISTINE 2-level upscale condo, 3 bedrooms. Hardwood floors. Parking. Steps to Ottawa University. \$289,900. Carol Charbonneau, Coldwell Banker Rhodes. 613-236-9551

SUSSEX- MURRAY Executive luxury 2 bedrooms, 2 bath-rooms, balcony, south-facing, indoor parking. \$359,000. 613-261-4504.

0030 CONDOS FOR RENT

2 BEDROOM CONDO FOR RENT Not furnished. All appliances, air conditioning, indoor parking, washer/dryer, main floor. Quiet building and very secluded. 8 minutes to downtown. \$1100/month. 613-747-9751.

530 LAURIER W - QUEEN ELIZABETH TOWER

Executive 2-bedroom, 2 balconies, 8 ft windows, granite, SS appliances. 24 hr concierge. All inclusive \$1350, may furnish. 613-231-6678

700 SUSSEX

Ultra luxury apartment, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, walk to Parliament and Market. \$2800/month. Photos: KevinSaunders.ca, 613-728-2664

A+ 700 SUSSEX

2 outstanding units to choose from \$2290-\$2900/month. Charles Sezlik, Prudential Town Centre. 613-744-6697 www.livehomz.com

ABSOLUTELY STUNNING 2 bedroom, 2 full bathrooms, 530 Laurier. \$1,300 including parking. 613-731-7682.

ATTENTION DIPLOMAT, MP'S, EXECUTIVE 2 bedroom, penthouse, central, river view, 6 appliances, AC, parking, pool, sauna, security, \$1,595 + hydro. 613-852-3266, 613-234-5093.

ATTRACTIVE - THE HIGHLANDS 2 bedroom, Central, indoor PARKING. All inclusive September, 10 minutes downtown, \$1,100, 613-276-4994 mariogroulx@rogers.com

BARRHAVEN

New terrace condo. 1400 sq.ft. plus, open concept, 2 bedroom, 2.5 baths, A/C, F/P, 5 appliances, close to all amenities. \$1100 + utilities. September. 613-940-3737

BRONSON & LAURIER

Prestigious new condos, walk to Parliament Hill. 6 appliances. Pool, gym, parking. 2 bedrooms \$1950. 1 bedroom \$1450. 613-293-7972

0030 CONDOS FOR RENT

CENTRAL Large, 2 bedroom in newly built upscale condominium, facing park. \$2300. 613-789-1343. www.viewit.ca11335

CENTRAL - RIVERFRONT PARKLAND VIEW New executive penthouse, 2 bedrooms + den, 2 baths, 6 appliances, hardwood granite terrace ensuite laundry same floor storage, indoor parking, walk to all amenities. \$2200 September. 819-459-1775

CLOSE TO ALL AMENITIES

Jardins Du Chateau, 2 minutes from the Champlain Bridge. This 3 bedroom dwelling completely renovated has oak and ceramic flooring on the main and second floor, 2.5 bathrooms,living room a slow combustion (insert), basement regular fireplace. Central air conditioning. Occupation immediate. 819-669-5775

DOWNTOWN

Brand new luxury condo. Spectacular view, central air, hardwood floors, 6 appliances, granite tops, washer/dryer, full gym and pool and parking September/October closing \$299,000 613-314-7854.

DOWNTOWN - EXECUTIVE For rent: \$1,600 utilities included of \$229,900 for sale. Absolutely beautiful elegant 2 bedroom, 1.5 baths, eat-in kitchen, 3 appliances, laminate wood floors, c/a, balcony with magnificent river view, underground parking, indoor pool, secure building. A real gem! Aug.

1.613-232-3648 DOWNTOWN HULL

New executive 2 hedroom condo walk to Market, portage, underground parking, \$1300 or \$2300 furnished. 819ing, \$1300 or \$2300 turnis 771-2362 or 819-772-1865

DOWNTOWN OTTAWA 199 Kent Towers, Apt. 402, 1 bedroom, 5

HULL - BY THE RIVER

Luxurious condo for rent, already rented

by the French Embassy. Available August

HULL - PLACE CHAMPLAIN

Directly facing The Ottawa River, luxury condo, 2 bedrooms, fireplace, A/C, 6

new Maytag appliances. In door parking, extra storage. Cable & internet included until March 2006. \$1600/month. (Can

be furnished if wanted). Robert Bleau,

ISLAND PARK

"The Metropole" \$3600-\$6000/mo. 3 Units available 2130-2758 sq ft of pure

luxury. 2 bedrooms plus a den, 2 bath-rooms, hardwood floors, 7 stainless

steel appliances, granite countertops underground parking, utilities included

Panoramic views overlooking the Ottawa

River, full amenities. Colleen Rushforth Minto Realty Inc. 613-782-2331

NEW CONDO FOR RENT

Overlooking the Ottawa River. Three

minutes from Parliament Hill and down-

town Ottawa. Surrounded by golf courses, bicycle paths, Place Champlain offers

a blend of comfort, practicality and luxury at an affordable price. Two bedrooms

at \$1,500. For rental information please

NEW LUXURIOUS APARTMENTS

\$1895/month (furnished - incl. utilities

NEW - OLD HUNT CLUB

Exciting open concept luxury penthouse

Panoramic windows, 10ft ceilings, 20ft terrace with gas BBQ hook-up, 2 bed-rooms, den, 2 baths, ensuite laundry,

gas fireplace, hardwood, 2 indoor park

ing, \$2200/month including heat, cool

SANDY HILL

Spacious, quiet 3 bedroom condominium apartment on Chapel St. Easy walk to

University of Ottawa and Rideau Centre

Secure Parking, 6 appliances, laundry in

apartment. A/C, pool & gym. Master bedroom has own bath and shower. Non-smoker, no-pets. Avail. Sept. 1.

\$1475/mo. All utilities and parking

included. uticgperroni@yahoo.ca

ing. 613-730-4597 - evenings.

August www.thesuitespot.net 613-832-5440.

Available

contact Rene at 613-282-0341

Royal LePage. 819-923-2532

213-0722.

Luxury 3 bedroom, air conditioning, Roman bath, 5 appliances, \$1550, available immediately. 613-828-7521. appliances, interior parking and swimming pool. Rent or own at same price. Excellent CENTRETOWN - MCLEOD/CANAL terms for serious buyers. 514-932-8050 Charming 2 bedroom townhouse. 5 ext. 225, hhconceptions@hotmail.com appliances, A/C, parking. \$1500 + utili-HULL- 2 BEDROOM CONDO ties. Aug. 1st or Sept. 1st Glenn Property Management. 613-830-3735 15 minutes from Parliament. Luxurious with wood floor, ceramic, fireplace and

DOWNTOWN EXECUTIVE much more. For sale at a great price or to rent with option to buy. Info 819-3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fireplace, deck, hardwood, 5 appliances, air-conditioning. \$1,500 + utilities. September 1, 2005. 613-224-1953

DOWNTOWN/IYON

Executive terrace home, 2 bedrooms, 1.5 bathrooms, fireplace, 5 appliances, air conditioning, September 1. \$1,399 + utilities. 613-288-1500. www.homesfor-rent.com

GORGEOUS EXECUTIVE \$1650 Townhome backing NCC Greenbelt, 3 bedroom, 2.5 bathrooms, open concept, 12 foot ceilings, finished basement, ersized garage. September 1. 613-290-6208.

HUNT CLUB/SOUTH KEYS Well lit 3 bedrooms, fireplace, central air, 5 appliances. Close to shopping, bus routes (84), schools. \$1450 + utilities. 613-762-1761

KANATA

3 bedroom, 5 appliances, 1.5 bath-rooms, huge eat-in kitchen, hardwood floors, private rear yard, garage, driveway, ravine setting, pool. Immediate. \$1300. 613-596-0199

KANATA

Available immediately, 3 bedroom townhouse, 1.5 bathrooms, 2 appliances, fully carpeted, small rear yard, parking included. \$928 + utilities. 613-831-3445, 613-257-8629

KANATA LAKES

Executive 3 bedroom, 2.5 bathrooms, finished basement, double garage, airconditioning, fireplace. \$1800. 613-SUSSEX SQUARE 2 brand new luxury 1 bedroom + der condos aranite counter tons hard wood/ceramic, 5 appliances, under-ground parking, storage locker, \$1495/month + utilities (unfurnished), MANOR PARK

3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, fin. family room with fireplace, garage. \$1700 + utils. Aug. 15. 613-288-1500. www.homesfor-rent.com

NEAR HUNT CLUB & LORRY GREEN-BURG Spectacular executive townhouse, over

2400 square feet, 2 fireplaces. Immediate \$1695/month. Call Bonnie: 613-726-1447 or Marc Leduc: 613-236-5959

NEAR MANOR PARK & MONTREAL ROAD Spectacular 3 bedroom executive town-

house, fantastic Iocation. \$1800/month. Call Mr. Kim: 613-277-3851 or 613-841-3751

WESTBORO/WEST VILLAGE New, showhome, semi 3 bedroom, 2 ensuite + half bathroom, fireplace, parking, \$1,700. 613-260-5390.

0033 TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE 0030 CONDOS FOR RENT

SOUTH KEYS

2 bedroom apartment. Northwest view, central air, 5 appliances, garage, parking, loundry and storage in apartment. Close to O-train, shopping, bus at door. \$1,275/month including utilities. Diane

Moorhead, Royal LePage Performance

THE METROPOLITAN

Walk to the Hill. Executive 2 bedroom, 2

baths, high ceilings, 6 appliances, f/p, balcony and security system, heat, a/c,

parking included. September 1, \$1800.

DOWNTOWN

Cathcart, bright 2 bedroom, 1.5 baths, 5 appliances, hardwood, sunroom, c/a,

f/p, near park/river and market, September. \$1600. 613-830-4225

AWESOME NEW EDINBURGH

Luxury 3 bedroom, 2.5 bathrooms, fire-

place, deck, hardwood, 5 appliances,

central air, parking, \$2000 inclusive. ASAP. Must see! 613-296-8582

BANK & WAIKIFY ARFA

2 year old executive townhouse, 2 bed-

rooms + loft, 1.5 baths, hardwood floor

ing, 5 appliances, garage. \$1500 + utilities. Sept. 1st Glenn Property

BRAND NEW TOWNHOUSE

Minutes from Parliament Hill. 2-bed-

room, hardwood floors, 5 appliances, underground parking, A/C. \$1550+hydro & gas. 613-749-6920.

CENTRAL PARK

Management. 613-830-3735

0032 TOWNHOUSE FOR RENT

Realty. 613-296-3520.

Gabby 613-231-3872

0031 DUPLEX FOR RENT

CENTREPOINTE

Backs on Parkland, 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 5 appliances, a/c, cedar deck interlock, original owner. 613-290-1895

0040 HOUSES FOR RENT

7 KM TO PARLIAMENT HILL Beautifully renovated, modern 3 bed-room single family home in Pineview. Professionally finished basement includes 4th bedroom and separate shower/hath Firenlace central air mair

floor laundry, 5 appliances, close to shopping, French/English schools \$1300/month, September 1. 613

ALTA VISTA

Bright 3 bedrooms in quiet neighbour hood. Eat-in-kitchen, finished basement, hardwood, backyard etc. \$1450 plus utilities. 613-523-4371

AVAILABLE AS OF SEPTEMBER

Quiet country living on one acre treed lot. Spacious, well lit 3 bedroom home recently renovated. Fully furnished it desired. Ample parking. High speed inter net available. Large deck with great views of Gatineau Park. Only 17 minutes from Parliament Hill. Some bus service but transportation is an asset. Available September through April or to be dis cussed. Reasonable rent. Contact: Yvar (Ivan) by email at: tpoint@videotron.co or call: 819-685-1467

AYI MFR

Close to bridge. Bright, quiet street, recently built, 2200 sq. ft., 4 bedrooms, office, 3.5 baths, finished basement, inground pool, 5 appliances, August or September, \$1,600. 819-682-7093.

AYLMER EXECUTIVE

Renovated farm house, 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 5 appliances, 3 car garage, \$1650 + util., 613-288-1500, MUST

SEE! www.homes-for-rent com BLACKBURN HAMLET

3 bedroom, 2 baths, large lot, new kitchen, family room with F/P, 1 car garage. \$1600/month, 2 year lease. Kay Leslie-Carlo, Coldwell Banker Rhodes & Co. H-613-746-0157, W-613-236 9551 www.kaylesliecarlo.com

CENTRAL PARK

Very attractive 4 bedroom semi. 5 appli ances, Central air, Fireplace, Carpet, 2.5 bathrooms, Garage. \$1600 + utilities. August 1. 613-722-7030 evenings.

CENTRETOWN

Lovely Edwardian home on McLeod Street, Ottawa. High ceilings, hardwood, trim. 3 bedrooms, dining, large kitchen, new bathroom, deck, new balcony. Central air-conditioning, garage, storage and 4 appliances. \$1550/month. Non smokers preferred. 613-235-2144/613-739-9338.

CHELSEA

12 minutes to Ottawa, 4 bedrooms, double garage, private lot, August 1. \$1400. Bob 819-459-3391

DOWNTOWN NEAR CANAL

Completely renovated open concept, 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, pine flooring throughout, all appliances, fireplace, gas heating, alarm, huge yard with deck and gardens. Available August 2005. \$2300. 613-830-4225 or 613-277-4225.

EXECUTIVE HOME IN ALTA VISTA Brand new 3400 sq. ft. home. 4 bed rooms, extra guest room, 3 bathrooms, hardwood oak floors on ground level, hia briaht kitchen, 5 appliances, gas , large den, 2 car garage, next to EO an d Lycee Claudel. CHEO an d Lycee \$3200/month. Available after August 1. 613-288-1999

GLEBE

Well maintained semi 1/2 bedrooms, 2 baths, private garage, f.p., c/a. Immediate \$2,100,613-232-3275.

HEARTS DESIRE - STUNNING EXEC. 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 5 appliances. Immediately \$2800 negotiable + utili ties. 613-288-1500. www.homes-for

KANATA LAKES - STUNNING EXECUTIVE With view of golf course, 6 bedrooms (4 bedrooms with ensuite bath) 5.5 baths C/A, solarium style eat-in kitchen, for mal dining & living room, family room, full lower level nanny suite (kitchen, liv ing room with fireplace, full bath) 5 appliances, garage. Immediate \$3000 + utilities. 613-288-1500 www.homes-Immediate \$3000 for-rent.com

MANOTICK WATERFRONT

Executive 2 storey 3 bedrooms, 3 bath-rooms, main floor office/4th bedroom, 5 appliances, 2525 sq.ft. 20 minutes from downtown Ottawa. \$2150/mo. Available September 1. 613-692-4946

0040 HOUSES FOR RENT

NEAR UPLANDS DRIVE

3 bedrooms + studio, double car garage, big back yard, finished basement, 2.5 bathrooms, walk-in closet. Available August 1st, \$1,600/month + utilities, approximately 6,000 square feet. 613-741-0553 after 6 p.m. or 613-612-3204.

NEW EDINBURGH

Semi detached, 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, finished basement, fireplace, August. 1 \$1600 + utilities. 613-288-1500 www.homes-for-rent.com

NEW LUXURY HOME

Stunning 4000 sq. ft. 4 bedroom, 4.5 bath in Winding Way, steps from Rideau River and 20 minutes to downtown. Hardwood, large ensuite, many upgrades. \$2800 + utilities. Available immediately. 613-889-7368

NEW WAKEFIELD HOME

Gorgeous location. Cycling, canoeing, 25 minutes to Ottawa. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths. \$1800/mo. 613-266-8666

OLD OTTAWA SOUTH

New, upscale custom-built semi, Bright and airy. Hardwood, 3 bedrooms, baths, 5 appliances, A/C, parking, deck, near schools, canal, parks. \$2,250/mo + utilities. Available immediately. 613-232-1954, e-mail: drywalk@bellnet.ca

ORLEANS - STUNNING EXECUTIVE 4 hedrooms 2 + 2 haths finished hase ment, garage, 5 appliances. July 1st. \$1850 + utilities. 613-288-1500 www.homes-for-rent.com

ORLEANS UNICORN

New large single, 2.5 baths, large ceramic kitchen, appliances, family room with fireplace, living & dining room, fenced yard, deck, alarm, C/Air, double garage, August, \$1800. Call GATEKEEP-ER @ 613-830-4225 / 613-277-

ROTHWELL

Immaculate, 2 storey, double garage, 3.5 bathrooms, 4 bedrooms, 2000 sq. ft, alarm, gas, c/a, hardwood/ceramic floors, partly finished basement, laundry. Family room with f/p, dining/living/kitchen/powder rooms on first floor. 10 minutes from downtown, 15 minutes by bus, central location close to shopping centres, school and universities, recreational centres. \$2550 + utilities. 6 appliances and drapes. Contact Professor Pandey, 613-837-9992, 613-852-1639. Immediate occupancy.

SHARON MURRAY. REMAX METRO-

CITY REALIY
613-563-1155. Century heritage stone
in the Byward Market. Richly furnished, beautiful space approx. 2,000 sq.ft. Everything included with 2 parking. Prefer 1 year with option. ing. Preter \$2800/mo.

STITTSVILLE GOLF COURSE COMMUNI-

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PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRISTINA LEADLAY

Francisco Benedicto, Ambassador of the Philippines (left), is returning home after seven years in Ottawa, while José Ignacio Carbajal, Ambassador of Spain and his wife Elisa Iranzo (centre), departed on July 27. Meanwhile, Anita Joseph (right) has recently arrived to take over as First Secretary at the OECS High Commission.

Philippines' Ambassador Retires After 19 Years In Diplomacy

DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES By Christina Leadlay

t looks like a high school yearbook crammed with hundreds of colour photographs of events and receptions — right down to the "Photo Collection. Canada, 1998-2005" embossed in gold on the blue hardcover. **Francisco Benedicto**, the Philippines Ambassador to Canada, even signs the inside page for me, as fellow students do at the end of the school term. And it is literally the end of term for Mr. Benedicto, but without the graduation ceremony and diploma. His staff have taken the time and care to compile this book of memories for him, remembrances of all the people he's met and events he's attended as part of his fourth head of mission assignment. After six years in Canada, he will be returning to the Philippines where he will likely retire. "I'm too old for another posting," he laughs from the comfort of a dark leather couch in his office, a pose that reappears throughout his yearbook, each time with a different smiling ambassador, government official or friend seated at his right hand.

"I'm a 100 per cent business man," says Mr. Benedicto, who has only been involved in diplomacy for the past 19 years. He studied commerce and management at the University of Cebu City in the Philippines, completing his Bachelor's degree in 1964. During his student years, he worked in the family business, and stayed there full time after graduating. "My family had a hardware and construction materials commercial company, which was established by my father in my home base of Cebu City," explains Mr. Benedicto. "We were able to diversify our business to many other lines," he savs.

recalling how he traveled a lot to nearby countries, especially Japan, during his career in business. "I continued in the family business until I was appointed ambassador to Singapore in April 1986," he says. "It was a big change from being a businessman to a diplomat, but it's been challenging and rewarding." Mr. Benedicto remained in Singapore for nearly seven years before he was assigned as the Philippines's ambassador to the Republic of Korea in 1993 for a two-year posting. His third diplomatic appointment was as ambassador to Brazil, but he did not stay there long before he arrived in Canada in 1998. "I've been away from home already 19 years [total]," the ambassador says.

Mr. Benedicto has seen two Canadian governors general, two prime ministers, and four Filipino presidents during his term in Ottawa. The memory book contains many photos of Mr. Benedicto welcoming President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo during her visit to Canada in 2002, but he says that one of the real highlights of his time here has been the opportunity to travel across Canada. "I like to meet the Filipino communities all over Canada, and I enjoy hosting dinners for them," he explains, noting that "the Filipino community [in Red Deer, Alberta] said I was the first ambassador to visit them. I'm just so happy in gathering with them to meet and talk. I'm happy to learn that they all are doing well, living comfortable lives." In Ottawa, Mr. Benedicto recalls how he has enjoyed hosting National Day parties, and get-togethers for his colleagues from the Association of Southwest Asian Nations (ASEAN) diplomatic missions. Mr. Benedicto is expected to return home in mid-August.

His successor, **José Brillantes**, is expected in early September.

Meanwhile, another ambassador to Canada has recently left Ottawa. José-Ignacio Carbajal, head of mission at the Spanish Embassy, returned to Madrid on July 27. Mr. Carbajal holds a Master's degree in Law and also studied International Studies at the Spanish Diplomatic School. He joined the foreign service in 1969, and has served in various capacities at his country's missions in the Dominican Republic, Sweden, two separate times in the United Kingdom, and in Morocco. Back at Foreign Affairs' headquarters in Madrid, Mr. Carbajal worked as Deputy Director General in the Consular Affairs department, and in the same position in the North American Foreign Policy department during the early 1980s. He has also served as Permanent Secretary of the Hispano-American Council in the Department of Foreign Policy. In the 1990s Mr. Carbajal returned to direct the Consular Affairs department, and later directed the Consular and Legal affairs division. Prior to his head of mission assignment in Ottawa, Mr. Carbajal was Spain's ambassador to Mexico from 1998 to 2003. He was in Ottawa for two years.

Just one floor down from the Embassy of the Philippines lies the High Commission for the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States where a new First Secretary has recently arrived. Anita Joseph is technically part of Dominica's foreign service, and she is happy to be in Ottawa representing her country in the OECS membership. "Do you like hot sauce?" she asks, gesturing to her bookcase where bottles of Caribbean condiments are displayed above neat stacks of paperwork and files. Promoting sauces and rums from the numerous island nations is part of her job in Ottawa, and is something she says she looks forward to tackling.

Ms. Joseph studied Spanish literature at the University of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas. She graduated in 1990 and taught Spanish at a high school in Dominica. After six years, "I decided I needed a change from the classroom," she explains, and went to Fordham University in New York on an OAS scholarship to pursue a Master's degree in International Politics, Economics and Development, which she completed in 1998. Later that year, Ms. Joseph decided she wanted to be a trade officer, but the recent amalgamation of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Trade resulted in more vacancies in the foreign service, so she successfully applied there. For the past seven years, Ms. Joseph has been working at headquarters, focussing first on hemispheric matters, then UN matters, international conventions and treaties, and until recently, bilateral relations with Latin America "and traditional partners like Nigeria and Japan," she says.

In Ottawa, Ms. Joseph is responsible for trade, investment and promotion of products from the countries in the OECS. "It will be really interesting to focus on tourism and to look at investment promotion and trade between the islands and Canada," she says. She notes that banana and sugar production are two industries on which Caribbean nations are looking to become less reliant. She also hopes to organize a trade mission of Canadian businesspeople to the islands early next year. "It's a new area for me, but it's exciting," says Ms. Joseph about her new role in Ottawa, which is also her first diplomatic posting. She expects to stay here for three years.



China

The Embassy of the People's Republic of China celebrated the 78^{th} anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People's Liberation Army with a reception on August 1.

- 1. Captain de vaisseau Olivier Casenave-Péré, Defence Attaché, Embassy of France being greeted by Senior Colonel Ping Cai, Military, Naval and Air Attaché, Embassy of the People's Republic of China
- 2. Senior Colonel Ping Cai, Military, Naval and Air Attaché chats with Ambassador of the People's Republic of China Shumin Lu.
- 3. Senior Colonel Ping Cai; Mr. Lu; and Lt. Colonel Jiang Jianrong; Assistant Military, Naval and Air Attaché.

Party Time

PHOTOGRAPHS BY SAM GARCIA





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