

# THE SENATE

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

## Senators' Statements:

[...]

### United Nations

#### Security Council Renewal of Resolution 1422

**Hon. A. Raynell Andreychuk:** Honourable senators, I would like to draw attention to and express regrets concerning the renewal of resolution 1422 of the United Nations Security Council.

Honourable senators will remember that the resolution, which was originally adopted last July, provides that the International Criminal Court should, for a 12-month period starting July 1, 2002, not commence or proceed with investigation or prosecution of any case involving current or former officials or personnel from a contributing state not a party to the Rome Statute over acts or omissions relating to a United Nations established or authorized operation unless the Security Council decides otherwise.

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan also opposed the resolution and expressed his belief that the request was unnecessary. Unfortunately, it was renewed on June 12, 2003, by a vote of 12-0, with France, Germany and Syria abstaining.

I would like to express my regrets with the renewal of the resolution. As convenor of Parliamentarians for Global Action's International Law and Human Rights Program, I share the same concerns raised by the association in their press statement of June 11. I will be so bold as to state that these concerns are most likely shared by many of my colleagues in this chamber.

Parliamentarians for Global Action have stated that its members:

...have vowed to uphold the principle of equality of all before the law. The organization fears that a renewal of Resolution 1422 would not only put a certain class of persons above the law, but may also endorse the view that the Security Council can amend multilateral treaties by unlawfully acting under Chapter VII of the UN Charter in the absence of a threat to the peace. Additionally, unopposed rollovers of the resolution each year could eventually lead to the development of customary rules against the universality of international justice.

I would also like to laud the words of Canadian Ambassador Paul Heinbecker in supporting the court and opposing the resolution when he stated:

The ICC's principal purpose is to try humanity's monsters, the perpetrators of heinous crimes.... We believe that a system based on law — the fair, predictable, equal application of principles agreed to by all — is in everyone's interest. We believe we must defend these basic principles, even if it means we must sometimes respectfully disagree with friends.

Honourable senators, I urge the Canadian government to continue to press for full implementation of the Treaty of Rome that created the International Criminal Court. We must continue to pursue the protection of the integrity of the newly established court. In this way, we will have taken one bold step forward towards preventing mass atrocities, crimes against humanity and acts of impunity that offend the conscience of the international community.

I urge the Canadian government to continue to pursue its goal for the full establishment of the International Criminal Court.