

Diplomacy This Week

DFAIT's Guerilla Diplomat Bids Adieu



JEFF DAVIS

Chatter House

One of DFAIT's best-known and most unconventional thinkers has decided to leave Ottawa for greener pastures, but not before leaving a little something to remember him by.

Longtime Canadian diplomat **Daryl Copeland** has just published a new book called *Guerrilla Diplomacy: Rethinking International Relations*, which turns the stodgy ideas of traditional diplomacy on their head.

While he is technically on a year's secondment, during which he will split his time between the University of Toronto's Munk Centre for International Studies and the University of Southern California's Center on Public Diplomacy, it seems Mr. Copeland may be gone for good.

"I have turned the page," he said with a wry grin, looking up from signing books at his book launch Monday.

The Canadian Foreign Service Officer Award winner says guerrilla diplomats are street-smart improvisers who will not shy away from using surprise, or even ambush, in order to get their message out. And Mr. Copeland has been party to a few examples of guerrilla diplomacy himself.

Back in 1984, he played host to **Les Grands Ballets Canadiens** during the troupe's visit to Bangkok. After a formal din-

ner with ambassadors and such, the ladies wanted a taste of Bangkok's nightlife.

Despite his warnings that nightlife in the city was a tad "seedy and lurid," the dancers insisted, so off they went to Bangkok's racy Patpong night market.

The dancers tore it, Mr. Copeland says, showing off with impromptu 20-minute appearances at clubs up and down the strip, sensationally embedding themselves in the memories of Bangkok's international crowd.

"Canada became the talk of the town—about the night Les Grands Ballets Canadiens visited Patpong," he says. "It really did more to renovate Canada's reputation, made us seem more cool, more hip, more with it, more innovative and more modern than any amount of paid media or advertising could have achieved."

Happy Canada Day, New York

Getting advertising time on New York's Times Square is usually a pretty pricey undertaking, but not if you're the Canadian foreign minister.

Yesterday, New Yorkers got an early hint of their northern neighbour's upcoming national day when a bilingual message of "Happy Canada Day! First of July" played on the giant screens of the Reuters Building at 3 Times Square.

The message was set to coincide with a 1:50 p.m. media appearance by Foreign Minister **Lawrence Cannon**, who had just finished giving a speech to the United Nations Security Council. He was joined in wishing Canada a happy 142nd by a small but determined group of star-spangled Canadians resident in the Big Apple.

Catherine Loubier, Mr. Cannon's director of communications, said the execs at news giant **Thomson Reuters** were more than happy to help with the Canada Day

greeting. After all, the execs know their company has deep Canadian roots, having been founded by the late great Canadian news magnate **Roy Thomson**.

Russian Ice Melting

Summer must be the season of diplomacy because the government has managed to defrost some of its chillier relationships. Besides the rare and encouraging visit by Chinese Foreign Minister **Yang Jiechi**, relations with Russia appear to warming as well.

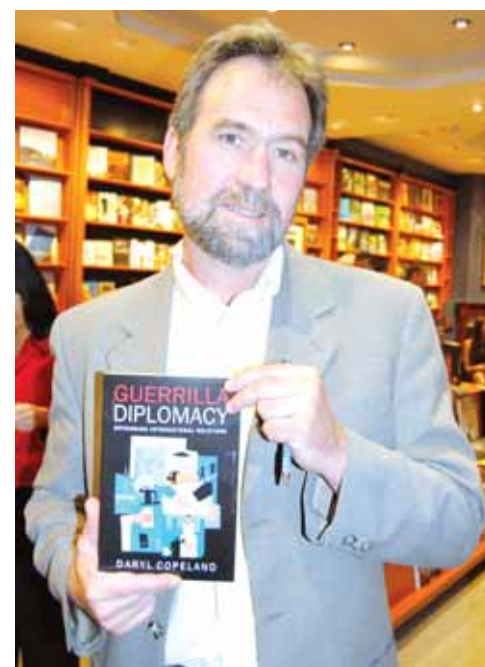
In the warmest Canada-Russia exchange in recent years, Trade Minister **Stockwell Day** and a slew of businesspeople spent last week in Moscow. The headline event was the seventh meeting of the Canada-Russia Intergovernmental Economic Commission, where Deputy Prime Minister **Viktor Zubkov**, who paid a visit to Ottawa last year, represented Russia.

Alongside the big bilat was the second Canada-Russia Business Summit, which attracted some 300 participants, including execs of some 33 Canadian firms. Among them were auto parts maker **Magna International**, infrastructure giant **SNC-Lavalin** and **Bombardier**.

Mr. Day's visit also included a stop in Sochi, the home of the 2014 Winter Olympics.

Russian deputy ambassador in Ottawa **Sergei Petrov** said that unlike Vancouver, all the infrastructure for the Sochi Games will need to be built "from scratch." SNC-Lavalin, he said, has already secured a major project to build a 40 km long rail and highway link to connect the various Olympic sites.

Meanwhile, back home in Ottawa, the Russian Embassy played host to **Konstantin Chuychenko**, a top aide to President



Departing diplomat Daryl Copeland at the Monday launch of his new book.

Dmitry Medvedev. Mr. Chuychenko holds the perhaps unenviable job of being Russia's anti-corruption czar, and came to Ottawa to learn a thing or two about how to straighten out a civil service.

Besides meetings with parliamentarians and members of the Privy Council Office, Mr. Chuychenko put his head together with Auditor General **Sheila Fraser**.

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Talking Points

Kenney's 'Bogus' Talk

While briefing notes show Citizenship and Immigration officials are skeptical that U.S. war deserters fleeing to Canada will be persecuted if returned, they do not include references to "bogus refugee claimants" as described by Immigration Minister **Jason Kenney** in October 2008, Canwest News Service reported. Rather, the documents, which were obtained through Access to Information, say refugee-hearing officers are advised to be "particularly vigilant" on claims from such western democracies as the U.S. Critics say Mr. Kenney's comments have influenced the refugee process.

Nfld. Premier in Europe

Newfoundland and Labrador Premier **Danny Williams** is travelling to Europe this week on a "goodwill mission" to promote his province as a significant player in Canada, VOCM radio reported. Mr. Williams will promote his province as an investment destination, and its petroleum and energy interests will also be on the table. The outspoken premier will also meet with the European Trade Commission to discuss tariffs in the fishery and the ban on seal products.

To Stay or Not to Stay

American President **Barack Obama's** administration has been quietly seeking allies and advice in Ottawa on how to convince Canada to keep its military forces in Afghanistan post-2011, the Canadian Press reported. American officials are hoping to pinpoint the factors in Canadians' opposition to the mission and identify the right arguments to sway the government to stay. The U.S. has not formally requested Canada extend its stay, and in a press conference at the UN in New York on Tuesday, Foreign Affairs Minister **Lawrence Cannon** refuted the possibility of an extension. "Our position is perfectly clear, we are not going beyond 2011," he said.

Seal Hunt Wavering

Quebec Premier **Jean Charest** told European Commissioner for the Environment **Stavros Dimas** that he is prepared to yield on the commercial seal hunt to appease European sentiments, the Canadian Press reported. Mr. Charest said he wants to smooth over the issues that led to the EU ban on seal products. He said he's willing to consider an alternative hunting method if the Europeans are willing to review their decision. The EU Parliament in May passed a bill that bans the import of seal products to its 27 countries as of 2010, though seal products from Inuit and aboriginal hunts are exempt.

Prince Charles to Visit

Gov. Gen. **Michaëlle Jean** announced this week that Prince **Charles** and his wife **Camilla**, the Duchess of Cornwall, will visit Canada in November. The heir to the British throne will cross the country, visit Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia. **Kevin MacLeod**, Canada's newly-appointed secretary to the Queen, has been charged with planning the visit.

Abdelrazik Followed

Canadian-Sudanese **Abousfian Abdelrazik** arrived on Canadian soil Sunday after taking a flight the government had tried for months to delay, claiming the man a security threat, the *Globe and Mail* reported. Mr. Abdelrazik's lawyer quickly informed media, however, that his client is being followed and videotaped by people he suspects are part of Canada's security agencies. Mr. Abdelrazik had been stuck in Sudan for six years and spent the last year living in the Canadian embassy in Khartoum because his name remains on a UN Security Council blacklist for suspected links to terrorism. Neither CSIS nor the RCMP say he is a threat, and a federal court judge ordered Ottawa bring him home.