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BRIEF NEWS FROM IBCR

Welcome to another edition of our informal newsletter, BRIEF NEWS FROM IBCR, which is published on an occasional basis to share with you the happenings and developments at the IBCR.

With these newsletters, we aim to bring you up to date on our successes, projects, introduce you to some of our collaborators and summarize for you our more important meetings.

We hope that you will once again enjoy this more relaxed and easy-to-read format for communication that gives you an open window into the everyday world of the IBCR.

Thank you Jean-François...All the best!

A Message from the Staff

It is with regret that the IBCR announces today the departure of our General Director, Mr. Jean-François Noël scheduled for the end of September. We must acknowledge his ten years of dedicated work projected through his humanist quality for the well-being of children everywhere. The strength of his professional and personal qualities will forever be present in the office.

We would especially like to thank Jean-François for having surrounded us with his judicial expertise since 1997 in his position as counsel for the IBCR and since 2001 in his position as Director General. From the beginning of his Directorship, he played an integral role towards the prestige and credibility that our organization is now re-known for. Mr. Noël was deeply involved in the very first International Tribunal on the Rights of Children Exploited Sexually (France 1997, Brazil 1998 and Sri Lanka 1999) and also had his voice heard at the Conference on Children Victims of Armed Conflict (United Kingdom 2000). Thanks in large part to the leadership and the know-how of our Director, stemming from his participation at various tribunals and conferences, the bureau was able to develop its expertise that is now present in all its publications and evident at the many conferences it participates in that deal with Children Victims of

Exploitation and is especially present in the training sessions of future judges on the International Tribunal for Children's Rights in Sarajevo.

This experience deepened Jean-François' dedication to another major problem, which would in turn support our hard work and become a turning point for the bureau: The Rights of Children Victims and Witnesses of Crimes.

It is through his strong determination that he undertook in 2000 a project aimed at expanding the guidelines for the protection of children victims of and witness to violent crimes and ultimately backed the adoption of these guidelines by the UN. This hard work paid off, when in 2005 ECOSOC adopted the guidelines to be followed in the court of justice anytime a child is the victim of or witness to a violent crime and consequently ECOSEC voiced their approval for all the hard work done by the IBCR in preparing these important modifications.

Jean-François' calm, straight forward and positive attitude has affected all present and past team members. He has been the target of many an intern's inspiration, and respect during their passage at the Bureau. Jean-François was admired for his ability to forget about the corporate ladder and prioritized open dialogue and exchanges between professionals and novices alike. His availability, openness and sense of humor eased the atmosphere at the Bureau, where tasks can often be arduous and difficult. Everyone at the Bureau basked in his ability to alleviate the tension with his lightheartedness.

Jean-François is moving on today but not without leaving behind a legacy that will ensure the continuing progression of the values and objectives of the Bureau. We are aiming higher than ever thanks to you Mr. Director! Godspeed!

Stéphanie Burel

A Message from the President

Officially the Father of the IBCR is Bernard Kouchner and the Mother is Andrée Ruffo, we must all agree that they are two great people. They have played a key role in our success and must be credited for doing so. The window of opportunity was very small in the field to implement a new International initiative on the Rights of Children referred to the only International Convention on the Rights of Children. The steps leading to a tribunal for the Rights of Children was original, full of potential but was very demanding and reached rapidly its limits. Thanks to Jean-François' clarity and persuasion to continue the project and force the board of directors to see his point of view, the Bureau became the tool and mainstay for future reference. Basically, Jean-François Noël is the

real Father of the Bureau and he has seen his work validated by the international community.

Like a great magician, Jean-François was able to transform the bureau into a high level of expertise with very little financial and human resources. At the base of this success was a vast knowledge and a quick study of the domain and the cultures of Quebec, Canadian and International institutions. One thing is for sure; success greatly depends on the personality of the Director General. Jean-François is young but solid; he is able to assess a situation quickly and lighten the atmosphere when things get too tense. He pushes the limits without ever breaking them. He blazes new trails but controls the flame. Basically, he is a true pleasure to work with. When you are not much of a character yourself, you're glad he's around.

We now have to continue moving forward. It won't be an easy task, but Jean-François has shown us that there is no such thing as an impossible situation for an institution that has well-defined projects and most importantly an individual or collective belief. The Bureau has lost a great leader but it is with great pleasure that we welcome the new Director General. Together, the Bureau, in its new modern offices, set up to stimulate the imagination of the staff, we will write a new page of history.

Jean-François Noël has left his mark on this decade and is walking out the front door of the Bureau with his head held high and heading towards new adventures at the service of human rights.

Hopefully some day our paths will cross again.

On the part of the Board of Directors, I would like to once again thank him for all his dedication and hard work and wish him the best of luck.

Jean Pierre Rosenczveig
President, Board of Directors