



communiqué

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GOVERNMENT APPOINTS CO-ORDINATOR ON AFRICAN FAMINE

OTTAWA--The appointment of David MacDonald as Canadian Emergency Co-ordinator/African Famine was announced today by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, and the Minister for External Relations, the Honourable Mme Vézina. Mr. MacDonald will begin his duties immediately.

Thousands of Ethiopians are starving to death, and according to some observers, 7 million are endangered by the food crisis. On the entire African continent, 150 million people in 24 countries are facing severe food shortages. In appointing Mr. MacDonald, the Government is responding to this human tragedy and seeking to involve as many Canadians as possible in the process.

Reporting to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Co-ordinator will work directly with the Minister for External Relations and the President of CIDA. He will have access to all levels of government.

The Canadian Emergency Co-ordinator/African Famine will: assess the food crisis in Africa and particularly in Ethiopia; propose concrete steps for the government to take in providing assistance; work with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in mobilizing and channeling Canadian support to feed the hungry; and, liaise with provincial governments and encourage their support and assistance.