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CANADIAN FORCES PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN AID FOR IRAQI REFUGEES

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, and the Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Bill McKnight, announced today that medical personnel and equipment from 4 Field Ambulance, located with Canadian Forces in Europe, will deploy early next week to the Turkey/Iraq border to provide humanitarian aid to the refugees.

"The urgent need to help Kurdish and other Iraqi refugees has prompted the Government of Canada to provide Canadian Forces medical specialists to contribute emergency care and first aid treatment to the refugees," said Mr. Clark. "This action is in addition to the \$8.1 million in assistance we have already announced."

Mr. McKnight added, "Given the pressing requirement for transportation support to ensure relief supplies reach the refugees, the Canadian Forces will also provide airlift. Two CC-130 Hercules aircraft will operate out of Germany and fly to both eastern Turkey and Iran in co-operation with the relief effort of the Government of Germany."

Two more Hercules will be positioned in Turkey to assist in the airlift of humanitarian relief to the refugees in the border area.