



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

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CANADIAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE  
INTERNATIONAL RELIEF EFFORT FOR  
KAMPUCHEA (CAMBODIA)

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The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Flora MacDonald, and the Minister of State responsible for CIDA, Martial Asselin, have announced today that Canada will make an initial contribution of \$5 million to the international relief effort to help the victims of the very serious famine now afflicting Kampuchea (Cambodia).

The Canadian Government has been following developments in Kampuchea over the last few months with ever growing concern. The Ministers noted that after the horrors inflicted on the Cambodian people by the Pol Pot regime had come the armed invasion by Vietnam with the inevitable accompanying destruction and chaos. The entire population faces famine because of the total disruption of rice planting by the on-going war. According to reports of representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross and of UNICEF, who have recently undertaken a mission to Kampuchea, malnutrition has reached crisis proportions and threatens the lives of an estimated 2.5 million people. Through starvation, exposure, military casualties and refugee outflows, the population of Kampuchea has already declined from over 8 million in 1975 to an estimated 5 million in 1979. The Red Cross has reported that almost no children under five years of age have survived and the 5-10 years age group is now seriously threatened. Furthermore, the advent of the dry season might well lead to an intensification of hostilities and the situation might become even more tragic.

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