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CANADA ANNOUNCES A STUDY TO IMPROVE THE UN'S RAPID REACTION CAPABILITY

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet and National Defence Minister David Collenette announced today that Canada has begun an in-depth review of the short-, medium- and long-term options available to strengthen the United Nation's rapid reaction capability in times of crisis.

"I announced Canada's intention to conduct such a study to the UN General Assembly last September," said Mr. Ouellet. "A review of several missions over the past five years clearly indicates that a more rapid, coherent response to an emerging crisis could have had a dramatic impact on the evolving situation," he added.

"This will allow us to bring to the table substantial recommendations based on expert study and drawing on Canada's peacekeeping experiences throughout the world over the last 40 years," said Mr. Collenette.

The objective of the study is to make practical proposals to enhance the UN's rapid reaction capability in the field of peace operations.

In order to provide the broadest possible international input to the study itself, an international consultative group is being established to review the work in progress. Throughout the study process, Canada will also consult extensively on a bilateral basis with member states, the UN Secretary-General and his staff, and interested observers.

The findings of the Canadian study are scheduled to be tabled at the 50th anniversary of the UN General Assembly in September 1995, and presented to the Secretary-General for consideration.

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