

THE MUNICH ECONOMIC SUMMIT

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SOMMET ÉCONOMIQUE DE MUNICH

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Dept. of External Affairs
Min. des Affaires extérieures

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Canadian Assistance to the Countries of the Former Soviet Union and to the Baltic States

The goal of Canada's bilateral policies and assistance to countries of the former Soviet Union and the Baltic States is to support political and economic reform, increase trade and investment, multiply people-to-people contacts, transfer knowledge and skills, integrate the newly independent states into the international economic system and reinforce their commitment to the principles of human rights and respect for minorities enshrined by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Canada is contributing about US\$1.6 billion in 1992 to the US\$24 billion financial package for Russia announced by the seven major industrialized democracies. Canada's share includes disbursements planned through existing lines of credit, debt deferral, contributions through international financial institutions, technical and humanitarian assistance, and Canadian participation in the stabilization fund for the ruble. The Canadian contribution is the largest per capita of any G-7 country after Germany.

Canada is also building on its special relationships with Ukraine, Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia based on 100 years of immigration.

Canadian support for the newly independent states includes technical assistance, the Canadian nuclear safety initiative, credits, support for trade and investment, multilateral contributions, and humanitarian assistance.

Technical assistance

The Task Force on Central and Eastern Europe, within External Affairs and International Trade Canada, is managing a program of technical assistance launched by Prime Minister Mulroney in July 1991. The program provides practical and hands-on training to the countries of the former Soviet Union as they make the transition to democracy and market economies.

Canadian agencies from the private sector, academic institutions, professional and business associations, non-governmental organizations, and government agencies carry out projects with recipient organizations, mainly in Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Ukraine, and Russia.

During the June visit to Canada of Russian president Boris Yeltsin, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney announced a quadrupling of program funding, from \$25 million to \$100 million, over three years.

Priorities for Russia are

- people-to-people exchanges and training for Russians in management, business, and public policy. Study at Canadian universities combined with internships at Canadian firms is one example;
- democratic development through, for example, parliamentary internships;



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