

CANADIAN STATEMENT

UNGA 44

Item 153: Operation Lifeline Sudan

Delivered by J. Kramer (Counsellor)  
24 October 1989

Mr President,

Canada is gratified by the success of Operation Lifeline Sudan. Against tremendous odds, the operation has succeeded in ensuring that there is enough food prepositioned in southern Sudan to prevent the massive starvation and loss of life witnessed a year and a half ago.

We congratulate the Secretary-General, his Personal Representative for Operation Lifeline Sudan, Mr James Grant, the WFP, the UNDP, the ICRC and many governmental and non-governmental organizations which helped to make the exercise a success. The personal courage and sacrifice of the many people directly involved are testimony to its humanitarian spirit. Canada recognizes that the cooperation of the Government of the Sudan and of combatant groups with the relief effort were important elements in the successes achieved.

In looking ahead toward a second phase of Operation Lifeline Sudan, we recognize the sustained effort that will be needed to assist displaced southerners, and indeed, the South itself to rebuild. The task will be daunting but can be accomplished if all involved show the same spirit of cooperation and sacrifice as was evident in Phase I.

Canada welcomes the appointment of Mr Michael Priestly as Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for Phase II of Operation Lifeline Sudan. We are pleased that he will carry with him the mandate of continuing the dialogue on humanitarian assistance with both parties to the civil conflict. We wish also to pay tribute to the effective and indeed courageous contribution to the exercise in the course of the past three years of Mr Brian Wannop, the UN Resident Coordinator in Sudan.

While Phase I has concluded, it is, however, disturbing that lasting peace has not been achieved. Without a lasting and durable solution to the conflict, reconstruction, rehabilitation and reconciliation cannot