

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, announced today that he had sent the following message to the Secretary General of the United Nations, Dr. Kurt Waldheim:

"In messages on June 21 and July 30, 1976 you have drawn the Prime Minister's attention to the most difficult financial situation faced by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. The Government of Canada, having studied with great sympathy the obligations which UNRWA will have to carry out in the near future and the needs to which it responds, has decided to consider favourably your appeal for a further Canadian contribution to the Agency for 1976. Accordingly, Canada will be making shortly a supplementary contribution of \$300,000 Canadian to help the Agency pursue its activities. This sum will be in addition to Canada's regular contribution for 1976 which amounted to \$3,350,000 Canadian and which represented in itself a \$150,000 increase over the 1975 level.

"Since the creation of UNRWA, Canada has never failed to give it tangible support. Our concern for the fate of these refugees has never faded; on the contrary, we are extremely concerned that it has not been possible over the years to find a permanent solution to the conflict in the Middle East of which they are the victims. Until that goal is finally attained, UNRWA's valuable services should be maintained. The Government of Canada is as concerned as you are with the precarious financial situation of the Agency. We shall therefore be prepared to examine with you and with other members of the Organization what can be done to ensure continuation of essential humanitarian activities of UNRWA."