

\* MINISTER MARLEAU TO ANNOUNCE?

RESPONSIVE:

- \* THE FIRST PROJECT, IN NORTHERN UGANDA, IS AIMED AT ASSISTING AND RE-INTEGRATING BETWEEN 5 000 AND 8 000 ABDUCTED CHILDREN BY REBEL FORCES. THE MAIN OBJECTIVES ARE TO STOP THE ABDUCTION OF CHILDREN; TO SUPPORT THE ADVOCACY WORK UNDERWAY FOR THE RELEASE OF THE ABDUCTED CHILDREN; AND TO FACILITATE THE TRACING AND RESETTLEMENT OF CHILDREN WHO MANAGE TO ESCAPE CAPTIVITY.
  
- THE SECOND PROJECT IN LIBERIA TARGETS 4 360 CHILDREN SOLDIERS. IT IS AIMED AT DEMOBILIZING AND REINTEGRATING CHILD SOLDIERS INTO THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES BY PROVIDING FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT SUCH AS SKILLS AND LITERACY TRAINING. IT WILL ALSO HELP TO ASSESS THE PSYCHOLOGICAL CONDITION OF THE CHILDREN AND SUPPORT THEIR PSYCHOLOGICAL RECOVERY, AND REBUILD THEIR SELF-CONFIDENCE FOR REINTEGRATION INTO CIVIL SOCIETY.
  
- THE THIRD PROJECT IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (EX-ZAÏRE) IS AIMED AT ENCOURAGING AND ASSISTING NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL AUTHORITY TO DEMOBILIZE 1 500 CHILD SOLDIERS, AGES NINE TO SIXTEEN, AND TO REINTEGRATE THEM INTO THEIR FAMILIES AND CIVIL SOCIETY. IT WILL ALSO HELP TO REINFORCE EXISTING MECHANISMS TO ALLOW DEMOBILIZED CHILDREN TO COMPLETE THEIR PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDIES AUGMENTED WITH LOCAL AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS TRAINING.

Following the meeting with press, you will leave the SRSG delegation. The delegation will meet with Minister Marleau, and then with Mr. Bill Graham and other members of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade.