



news release

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NEW CANADIAN CONTRIBUTION TO UNRWA

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced that Canada will contribute \$3.62 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). This contribution, which comes from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), will support UNRWA's relief and social services program for Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

"Improving the life of Palestinian refugees can contribute directly to the success of the peace process in the Middle East. Canada, which chairs the Refugee Working Group, is a strong supporter of this process," said Mr. Ouellet.

This announcement coincides with the meeting, in Cairo, of the Refugee Working Group, held within the framework of the multilateral peace negotiations in the Middle East. This brings to approximately \$210 million Canadian assistance to UNRWA since 1950.

Funding for this initiative was provided for in the February 1994 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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