

Minister comments on Poland

Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan met with the Canadian Polish Congress on December 23 to discuss the situation in Poland.

In a statement following the meeting, the minister said he expressed the Canadian government's "deep sympathy with the Polish people in their present difficult circumstances". Dr. MacGuigan said they also "spoke of the need for the Polish people to resolve their difficulties without interference on the part of other nations and through compromise and consensus among the various national groupings".

As a result of widespread arrests and detentions, the Canadian government is "urging restraint on the part of Poland's government so that the expressed desire for an early return to renewal and reform can be achieved", said the minister. "In this regard we hope that the Polish government will bring an early end to martial law and will enter forthwith into a serious dialogue with all parties to resolve the situation," he added.

Canada joins with its allies "in expressing the fervent hope that there will be no more bloodshed and no more violence", said Dr. MacGuigan.

"As a signatory to the Helsinki Final Act, the Polish government freely assumed a number of obligations regarding basic freedoms which now appear to be clearly in jeopardy. If mutual confidence is to be restored, it is imperative that an early return to the fundamental principles of the Act be achieved," said the minister.

Emergency aid

Dr. MacGuigan announced previously in the House of Commons that Canada would provide a \$500,000 grant to the International Red Cross for assistance to Poland during the current civil unrest.

The grant, being made available through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), comes as a result of an appeal from the Polish Red Cross to the League of Red Cross Societies.

Canada's response is being made through the Canadian Red Cross Society. The minister's announcement followed an announcement in November of a \$100,000 grant to the Polish Canadian Congress for the purchase, transport and distribution of relief goods.

Contribution to United Nations relief agency

Canada will provide \$8.1 million in 1982 to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

The contribution was announced by Canada's Ambassador to the United Nations Gerard Pelletier at the recent UNRWA pledging conference in New York.

The contribution, to consist of a \$3.6-

million cash grant and \$4.5 million in food aid, is being made to maintain the essential services of the UNRWA "for as long as is necessary to achieve a comprehensive solution to the Middle East crisis", said Mr. Pelletier. He added that Canada in setting the level of its contribution took into account the anticipated rise in the agency's programs including its food aid requirements.

United States space shuttle crew visit Canada

United States astronauts Joe Engle and Richard Truly, commander and pilot on the latest flight of the space shuttle, *Columbia*, recently made a six-day tour of Canadian cities at the invitation of the National Research Council of Canada.

It was during this flight that the two astronauts tested the \$100-million Canadarm, the robot arm that Canada donated to the National Aeronautic and Space Administration program. The space arm, built by Spar Aerospace Limited of Toronto, is designed to lift satellites and other cargo in and out of the shuttle.

During their visit to Ottawa, Colonel Engle and Captain Truly met with Governor General Edward Schreyer, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and Minister of State for Science and Technology John Roberts. The two astronauts

were also introduced to members of Parliament during question period in the House of Commons.

They attended a civic reception at Ottawa City Hall and made public appearances to explain about the flight and answer questions. While in Ottawa, Colonel Engle and Captain Truly were given a luncheon by the NRC, attended press briefings, and were presented with lifetime association memberships by the Royal Canadian Air Force Association. In addition, they visited NRC's facilities and met with the engineering team responsible for managing the Canadarm project. Colonel Engle and Captain Truly also travelled to Montreal and Toronto where they visited the laboratories of Spar Aerospace Limited and made public appearances.



Captain Richard Truly (left) and Colonel Joe Engle (right) present British mountain climber Sir Edmund Hillary with an autographed memento of the flight of the space shuttle Columbia, during a visit to Ottawa in December.