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CANADA PAYS ITS 1988 FAO CONTRIBUTION

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced today that Canada will retain its membership in the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Mr. Clark also announced that Canada will pay its 1988 assessed FAO contribution of US \$9.3 million on May 16. This date marks the beginning of the review of the Organization's goals and procedures as agreed to by the 1987 FAO Conference. The review will be undertaken by joint sessions of the FAO's Programs and Finance Committees.

Mr. Clark referred to the decision as a gesture of Canadian commitment to the Organization. The FAO is embarking on a process of revitalization for which trust and confidence are essential. Canada will participate actively and constructively in this exercise, and will offer a number of specific recommendations.

Canada has a longstanding interest in strengthening the efficiency of operations, improving priority-setting procedures and increasing financial accountability within the FAO. Mr. Clark said that the FAO "is a critically important organization as long as there is hunger and malnutrition in the world. As a major agricultural producer with a strong commitment to Third World development, Canada should be a full partner in the Organization".

The Food and Agriculture Organization, a specialized agency of the United Nations, was established at Quebec in 1945. Its mandate is to raise global levels of nutrition and standards of living, and to improve the production and distribution of food and agricultural products. There are 158 member countries represented at the Organization's Rome headquarters.

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures