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CANADIAN GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR POLAND

The Department of External Affairs announces that the Canadian Government has agreed to permit Poland to defer approximately \$21 million of repayments due between March 15-June 30 on official credits. This action represents a short-term measure designed to alleviate Poland's immediate repayment burden. Canada is also participating in discussions between Poland and Western creditors to consider what could be done to deal with the problem of Poland's external indebtedness over the longer term.

Canada will also continue to be a major source of grain for Poland under the provisions of a long-term agreement, covering the period 1980-82, for the supply and purchase of 1.0 - 1.5 million tonnes of grain annually. Under this agreement the Canadian Government will continue to provide Poland with the credit guarantees required to finance these grain shipments.

The Canadian government's action which was in response to a request by the Polish government, was conveyed March 19 to the Polish Ambassador to Canada, H. E. Dr. Stanislaw Pawlak, by the Department of External Affairs.