The Canadian Fund for Dialogue and Development (CFDD) has been created as a parallel measure to encourage and support conferences, seminars and workshops promoting regional dialogue on development issues in the Middle East. Canadian diplomatic missions in the region will administer the CFDD with an initial budget of \$500,000.

The Refugee Working Group is one of five Multilateral Working Groups established last January in Moscow to complement the bilateral peace negotiations. The bilateral talks, established in Madrid in October 1991, focus on direct negotiations between Israel and its neighbours. The Multilateral Working Groups involve some 35 countries and focus on a wide variety of regional issues whose solution requires concerted international effort.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office External Affairs and International Trade Canada (613) 995-1874

or

Gabrielle Mathieu Media Relations Office Canadian International Development Agency (819) 953-6060