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No.: 99

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DIFFUSION: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
RELEASE: NOVEMBER 3, 1978

CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY FORCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson, today announced that Canada will continue its participation in the United Nations Emergency Force in the Middle East (UNEF) for a further period of nine months.

The decision to continue Canadian participation until July 24, 1979 was in response to a request from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kurt Waldheim.

"The presence of peacekeeping forces in the area constitutes a vital element of stability while efforts to find a political solution are pursued. Canada's contribution to the Emergency Force is important for its effectiveness," Mr. Jamieson said.

Canada shares with Poland the task of providing logistic support for UNEF. This task is carried out in conjunction with similar duties in the United Nations Disengagement and Observer Force (UNDOF).

There are some 1,000 Canadian personnel serving in the Canadian peacekeeping contingent in the Middle East. Some 840 serve with UNEF in the Sinai and the remaining 160 are with UNDOF on the Golan Heights.