



No. 131

June 7, 1990.

MONIQUE LANDRY WELCOMES ETHIOPIAN MEASURES

The Minister for External Relations and International Development, The Honourable Monique Landry, today expressed satisfaction at measures recently announced by the Government of Ethiopia designed to revive peace talks and to enhance delivery of humanitarian relief to northern Ethiopia.

" These measures are fully supportive of the objectives of the Statement of Principles that I announced on behalf of donor governments and the European Community at the United Nations in New York on April 24, " said Mrs Landry. The Statement of Principles was initiated by Canada to guide all parties to the conflict in the delivery of emergency famine relief in northern Ethiopia.

" The decision of the Ethiopian Government to reopen the Port of Massawa for delivery of famine relief supplies to northern Ethiopia as well as a UN sponsored airlift of relief supplies to the besieged northern city of Asmara, in conjunction with the recently announced joint airlift of famine relief supplies by the United States and Soviet Governments, will do much to eradicate the famine threatening some one and a half million people in Eritrea. "

" Canada applauds the Ethiopian Government's readiness to take action to enable the UN to serve as an observer in substantive negotiations between the Government of Ethiopia and the Eritrean Peoples' Liberation Front (EPLF), " added Mrs. Landry. " The peace talks have been deadlocked over this particular issue for several months. Canada regards this as a positive and constructive action by the Ethiopian Government in the pursuit of peace. "

Canada will join with the other signatories to the Statement of Principles in ensuring donor country cooperation in support of the reopening the Port of Massawa.

Mrs. Landry concluded that she was extremely pleased that the co-chairmen of the Ethiopian/EPLF peace talks, former Presidents Carter and Nyerere, have been informed of these developments by the Ethiopian Government and renewed Canada's offer to support the talks in whatever manner would prove most helpful.

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