

Humanitarian Assistance

Earlier in 1994, Canada's humanitarian assistance to the region passed the \$100 million mark. Half of this assistance went to the former Yugoslavia through international relief agencies. Funds have been used to purchase food aid in Canada and to support the work of the Red Cross and the United Nations specialized agencies working with displaced persons, women and children victims of sexual violence, and other civilians affected by war.

Canada has been a major contributor to the Red Cross Solidarity Assistance program for Russia, Ukraine, the Baltics and other countries of the former Soviet Union. Basic medication and medical supplies worth \$25 million were provided to a number of maternity and children's hospitals and to the Red Cross Visiting Nurses program in Russia and Ukraine. In addition, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has received \$8.5 million for a vaccination program in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus.

The Trans-Caucasus region of the former Soviet Union has also received humanitarian assistance. Of nearly \$6 million in contributions, half went for victims of conflicts in Georgia.

Nuclear Safety

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Initiative was announced in June 1992. Canada has allocated \$30 million over three years to the initiative for both bilateral and multilateral activities. Along with other countries, Canada is helping to improve the security of Soviet-designed nuclear reactors in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. A nuclear safety account has been established at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to fund projects that are not covered under individual bilateral programs. Canada has contributed \$7.5 million to this account.

Canadian bilateral funds will be spent in three sectors: nuclear safety, regulatory assistance and utility management. Funding will be focused on Russia, Ukraine and Lithuania, which operate older, Soviet designed RBMK-type reactors similar to those used at Chernobyl.

Multilateral Assistance

The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) are providing investment programs as well as economic and technical assistance to the countries in the region.