

PRESS RELEASE



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The Secretary of State for External Affairs announced today that the Canadian Government would make available \$40,000 in relief assistance, through the Canadian Red Cross Society, for India and Ceylon, in connection with the recent cyclone and tidal wave disaster in that area.

The cyclone and tidal wave of December 22 has resulted in more loss of life and destruction than has been experienced in any disaster in Ceylon during this century. It is reported that at least 600 died in Ceylon and 800 in Madras State of India. Property damage in Ceylon alone is estimated at over \$25 million, and more than 1,500 people have now been evacuated from Madras.

In addition to the emergency assistance, the Canadian Government is investigating the possibility of providing to Ceylon and India additional help, possibly in the form of building materials for reconstruction and rehabilitation.