

# News Release

# Communiqué

Department of  
External  
Affairs



Ministère des  
Affaires  
extérieures

No. 256

December 22, 1988.

## EARTHQUAKE IN ARMENIA: SITUATION REPORT ON

### CANADIAN ASSISTANCE

The dispatch of Canadian relief assistance to victims of the tragic earthquake in Armenia has proceeded quickly and effectively. As of the end of this week, more than 500 tons of relief supplies gathered through the Canadian Armenian communities' relief efforts or purchased through Canadian government funds, will have reached or departed for the Soviet Union. The bulk of the Canadian government relief contribution of \$5,550,000 continues to be spent on urgent medical and other necessary supplies through the Canadian Red Cross.

Shipments have included some 16 flights from Canada provided by the Department of National Defence, the Soviet airline Aeroflot, Soviet military authorities, and other chartered aircraft. The Department of National Defence dedicated some \$600,000 towards its relief flights and also provided personnel for loading and transporting urgently required goods to the Soviet Union. Additional extensive assistance was provided by Air Canada and the Soviet shipping company, Morlines, which is also carrying goods gathered through the Armenian communities' relief efforts.

The Department of External Affairs Task Force on Armenia continues to work closely with the Canadian Armenian communities in providing relief assistance. On December 19, the Task Force met with leaders of the Canadian Armenian Relief effort and Members of Parliament, William Attewell and Barbara Green, to ensure on-going coordination of appropriate relief efforts.

- 30 -

Secretary of State  
for  
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État  
aux  
Affaires extérieures

Canada