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CANADA TO REPLACE CONTINGENT TO UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION IN RWANDA (UNAMIR)

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet and Defence Minister David Collenette today announced that Canada will assign 120 military personnel to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) in January 1995.

The announcement comes in response to a request from the UN that Canada maintain a presence in peacekeeping efforts in Rwanda, particularly in the area of logistical support.

"The UN is helping the Rwandan government to re-establish a secure environment in the country. We are pleased to be able to provide Canadian troops to assist in these efforts," said Mr. Ouellet.

"This request for additional support is a demonstration of the confidence that the international community has in our peacekeepers and their expertise in this area," said Mr. Collenette.

The new Canadian contingent includes a logistical unit of 80 soldiers and a 40-member support unit for UNAMIR headquarters and other components. They will replace a group of 360 communications specialists who were sent to Rwanda in June 1994 on a six-month UNAMIR mission.

The UN Security Council has extended UNAMIR's mandate to June 9, 1995.

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