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CANADA ANNOUNCES BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SUPPORT FOR JAMAICA

The Department of External Affairs announced today that Canada, through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), will provide Jamaica with \$4.5 million in emergency balance of payments assistance in 1981-82 in order to assist Jamaica in the implementation of its economic recovery programme. This assistance will take the form of a concessional loan for the import of essential Canadian goods and services including foodstuffs, with specific arrangements to be negotiated between CIDA and the Government of Jamaica.

In January 1981, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Dr. Mark MacGuigan, announced in Jamaica that Canada intended to intensify and deepen its ties, particularly in the economic and political fields, with the states of the Commonwealth Caribbean. As part of this general policy approach, he also announced for Jamaica an increase in regular programmed bilateral development assistance to \$8 million in the fiscal year 1981-82 plus the provision of \$3 million in additional government-to-government assistance in 1981.

Today's announcement of emergency balance of payments assistance will have the effect of increasing total Official Development Assistance to double the normal level of bilateral development assistance that had been allocated to Jamaica in the previous fiscal year.