



news release

Date **July 2, 1993**

No. 138

For release

CANADIAN TO LEAD UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION UGANDA-RWANDA

External Affairs Minister Perrin Beatty and Minister of National Defence Tom Siddon today announced that Canada has agreed to a request from the United Nations Secretary-General to provide a Canadian to head the United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda (UNOMUR).

Canadian Forces Brigadier-General Romeo Dallaire will serve as the Chief Military Observer of the new UN operation. He will oversee an international staff of 81 military observers, plus international and local civilian support staff. The mandate of UNOMUR is to verify that no military supplies are crossing the Uganda-Rwanda border, destined for the Rwandese Patriotic Front.

"Brigadier-General Dallaire's leadership will aid the international community in ensuring that the situation in Rwanda remains stable while both sides work toward a peaceful solution," said Mr. Siddon.

"Tens of thousands have died and up to one million others have been displaced in the civil war in Rwanda," said Mr. Beatty. "Canada is pleased to make this important contribution to UNOMUR and its work in ending this tragedy."

UNOMUR will be based in Uganda and has an initial mandate of six months.

A biography of Brigadier-General Dallaire is attached.

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