

The Secretary of State for External Affairs announced today that following a Cabinet decision, the Canadian Government has decided to renew its offer of economic assistance to Portugal. The Secretary of State for External Affairs has sent the following personal message to the Portuguese Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ernesto Melo Antunes, informing him of this offer:

"My dear Colleague,

I wish to congratulate you upon your recent reappointment as Foreign Minister of Portugal. Although these heavy responsibilities are not new to you, you undertake them at a crucial and decisive time of history. I wish you every success. As you know, Canada attaches great importance to the democratic principles supported by all NATO members in the Ottawa declaration of 1974 and to our common dedication to the principles of democracy, respect for human rights, justice and social progress.