

CANADIAN POSITION

Canada strongly supports the UN peace-making initiative and the Unified Task Force operation as essential to securing humanitarian supplies as authorized by the UN Security Council Resolution 794. At its height, there will be serving with the Command some 1300 Canadian personnel, including those working from the supply ship HMCS Preserver. Proposals for subsequent international action to reconstruct a viable civil society are under urgent consideration.

Canada is supporting UNOSOM, as well as humanitarian relief efforts of the ICRC, other non-governmental organizations and several UN agencies, in particular the World Food Programme (WFP) and UNICEF. Canada has contributed over \$22.8 million in emergency aid to Somalia and to Somali refugees, including those in Kenya, Djibouti, Yemen and Ethiopia. The airlift operation involving three Canadian Hercules C-130 cargo planes ferrying WFP and ICRC relief supplies from Kenya into Somali has been extended until 31 January. Over the past year Canada has provided refuge to over 15,000 Somalis and continues to seek ways in the complex Somali environment of ensuring more rapid family reunification.

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

- Considering that the Security Council is actively seized of the situation in Somalia and that there remains to be established an effective government with which the Commission could interact, what are the advantages/disadvantages of maintaining consideration of Somalia under confidential procedure 1503 or transferring it to public debate under item 12 ?

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