



# communiqué

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## AUSTERITY MEASURES: POST CLOSINGS

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, today provided additional information on the measures taken by the Department of External Affairs in line with the Government's expenditure reduction program.

The process of advising and consulting foreign governments having been completed, Mr. Clark today announced that the Canadian Embassy in Ouagadougou and Consulates in Birmingham, Rio de Janeiro, New Orleans and Bordeaux will be closed. A separate mission to the FAO in Rome will not be opened. Total savings for 1985-86 will be \$3.1 million. Other posts will be closed later in 1985 for additional savings in future years.

Mr. Clark noted that the closings will not seriously affect the level of services offered in the countries concerned, since Canadian interests will be looked after by consulates and embassies nearby. The Minister said that Foreign Governments have been assured that the closings do not reflect any lessening of interest by Canada in those countries nor in the Government's commitment to continuing good political and economic relations with them.