

Canada is contributing \$75 million in balance-of-payments support to Hungary, the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Romania and Bulgaria. We are ready to help Russia and the other countries of the former Soviet Union stabilize their economies as part of agreed IMF programs.

Canada was also a founding member of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), subscribing a large share in the capital -- around \$120 million over the next five years -- but our assistance has gone well beyond business-driven decisions. We have not stood idly by when there have been conflict and human suffering. Canada has been quick to offer emergency humanitarian relief -- over \$10 million in the last six months alone!

This past winter, with the former Soviet Union facing critical shortages, Canada sent 20 Department of National Defence (DND) flights with over 600,000 pounds of medicines and basic medical supplies for children's hospitals in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Armenia.

Canada has provided more than \$2 million in humanitarian assistance to the victims of the Civil War in Yugoslavia. We have also given more than \$1 million in direct medical aid for victims of the Chernobyl tragedy, especially children.

I was in Kiev for the arrival of the first DND mercy flight as part of Operation Boreal. It was an emotional moment as the plane landed, a moment for which all Canadians should feel great pride.

Canada was also the first country to deliver medical assistance to both Armenia and Azerbaijan for those wounded in the fighting over the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

So our humanitarian record has continued, as Eastern Europe moves from challenge to challenge, crisis to crisis.

But Canada and Canadians have always been sensitive to the human dimension of any situation, and this continues to be the rationale behind our technical assistance program for Eastern Europe. We believe that there is no substitute for person-to-person contacts, whether through exchanges, training or internships.

Canada has committed \$85 million in technical assistance to Eastern Europe -- one of the largest commitments proportionally of any of the G-7 nations -- but, despite the magnitude of our program, which began in 1989, demand continues to far outstrip available resources.