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CANADA ANNOUNCES HUMANITARIAN AID ARRIVES IN CHECHNYA

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced that goods purchased with a \$2.5-million emergency humanitarian assistance package have begun reaching victims of the conflict in Chechnya.

"This aid package provides emergency assistance for some of the 400 000 people most affected by the conflict, including displaced persons, children, the elderly and hospital patients," said Mr. Ouellet.

The money was used primarily to purchase, in Canada, critically required basic necessities, including children's clothing, blankets, candles and food. It was also used to deploy Canadian relief workers to oversee the delivery of Canadian relief shipments. The Canadian package is being distributed in the region by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Funding for this initiative was provided for in the February 1995 budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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