



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
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MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS  
TO ATTEND UN CONFERENCE ON AFRICAN EMERGENCY

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced today in Ottawa that the Honourable Monique Vézina, Minister for External Relations, will head the Canadian delegation to the special UN Conference on the Emergency Situation in Africa in Geneva on March 11-12, 1985.

The Conference has been convened by the UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar to examine the emergency needs of the 150 million people in the 20 African countries most severely affected by the drought. The Conference will also try to identify sources of additional emergency assistance and improve the coordination of international relief efforts of the UN agencies, donors and recipient countries. US Vice President Bush will be a key note speaker.

Madame Vézina stated that she "will reaffirm the deep concern and sympathy of Canadians for the plight of millions of Africans and reiterate our undiminished commitment to work with the international community to overcome the famine". She will outline the Canadian response to date, especially the overwhelming offers of the assistance from Canadian men, women and children and indicate future contributions the government will make.

Madame Vézina will be accompanied on the delegation by: Mr. William Winegard, M.P., Chairman of the House Committee on External Relations and National Defense; Mr. David MacDonald, Canadian Emergency Coordinator; Mr. Alan Beesley, Ambassador to the UN in Geneva; and senior officials from CIDA and External Affairs.