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# news release

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## NAMIBIA: CANADA TO PARTICIPATE IN UNTAG

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, and the Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Bill McKnight, announced today that Canada has agreed to participate in the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) in Namibia. This is the military/civilian operation created by the Security Council February 16 to supervise Namibia's one-year transition to independence starting April 1, 1989, including elections in November.

Canadian participation in UNTAG is a concrete manifestation of Canada's long-standing commitment to help bring Namibia to independence. Canada was a major sponsor of the original UN plan for Namibia under Security Council Resolution 435 in 1978. Canada's contribution to UNTAG is consistent with our traditional commitment to UN peacekeeping, and reflects the high regard in which Canadian Forces peacekeeping personnel are held by the international community.

Canada is contributing a logistics unit which will support both the military and civilian components of UNTAG and will be located near Namibia's capital Windhoek. In addition to this group called the 89 Logistics Unit which will comprise approximately 235 Canadian Forces personnel, Canada will provide 5 military police and a few staff officers for UNTAG Headquarters. The overall Canadian contingent will be under the command of Col. Michael Jeffery and is expected to be deployed in the second half of March.

To help meet the immediate need for cash to launch the UNTAG operation, Mr. Clark presented on Friday, February 24, to the Secretary General's Special Representative for Namibia, Mr. Martti Ahtisaari, a cheque for \$11.9 million Canadian (\$10 million US) as early payment of the bulk of Canada's assessed share. Canada was the first country to pay part of its assessment for UNTAG.

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