



communiqué

No:
No.: 61

DIFFUSION: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
RELEASE: JUNE 26, 1981

CANADA'S ACCESSION TO EXTENSIONS OF THE WHEAT TRADE CONVENTION 1971, AND THE FOOD AID CONVENTION 1980

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Dr. Mark MacGuigan, and the Minister Responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board, Senator Hazen Argue, today announced that Canada has acceded to the two year extensions of the Wheat Trade Convention, 1971, and the Food Aid Convention, 1980, both comprising the International Wheat Agreement, 1971.

The action was taken so that Canada would continue to be a member of the International Wheat Agreement, 1971, when the two year extension comes into force on July 1, 1981. Canada's commitment to the Food Aid Convention, 1980, will be maintained at its previous level of 600,000 tonnes of cereal food aid annually.

"Canada has long been a major participant in discussions on international grain matters and our accession to the extended International Wheat Agreement recognizes the importance of the Agreement and the role of the International Wheat Council as an appropriate forum for exchanges on grain markets and trade information and for discussions on world food security as they relate to grain matters," said Senator Argue.

"Canada will continue to play its part in assisting developing countries through on-going provision of food aid and through improvements in the existing system of world food security," Dr. MacGuigan said. Canada is joining with other donors to the 1980 Food Aid Convention in announcing its intention to maintain food aid flows at their current levels for another two years.

Dr. MacGuigan noted that he considered it particularly important that Canada take this step to reaffirm Canada's position on this question in advance of a number of major international meetings including the Ottawa Summit and the North South Summit in Mexico.