

# PRESS RELEASE



# COMMUNIQUÉ

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANADA

MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

NO. 13

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
FEBRUARY 16, 1966

## ZAMBIAN OIL AIRLIFT

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, today made the following announcement: On December 20, 1965, the Prime Minister announced that the Canadian Government had decided to participate in an airlift of oil supplies to Zambia. This decision was taken at the request of President Kaunda of Zambia, supported by Prime Minister Wilson of Britain. At the time, the Prime Minister said that Canada would provide four RCAF Hercules aircraft for a period of approximately one month. This was subsequently extended to the end of February.

In late January the Zambian Government expressed its gratitude for the assistance rendered by Canada, and in particular by the RCAF, and asked if Canada would be prepared to extend the duration of its participation in the airlift until the end of April, should this be required. The Canadian Government recently agreed to do this, but because the air transport resources of the RCAF will be heavily taxed in meeting other prior commitments, the Canadian contribution to the airlift will be reduced from four to two Hercules aircraft at the beginning of March.