

BACKGROUNDER

UPDATE ON CANADIAN HUMANITARIAN AIRLIFT TO THE FORMER U.S.S.R. AND BALTIC STATES

Medical Assistance

- This announcement brings to \$8 million Canada's contributions to the Canadian Red Cross's Solidarity Assistance Program of humanitarian relief in the countries of the former U.S.S.R. and the Baltic States.
- Of the \$6 million previously announced, \$4.5 million was earmarked for Russia and Ukraine, \$1 million for the Baltic States, \$250,000 for Armenia and \$250,000 for the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.
- Red Cross personnel have conducted detailed needs assessments in each region targeted to receive Canadian supplies.
- The funds are being used for the purchase of approximately 180,000 kg of medicines and medical supplies for the most vulnerable groups: children in hospitals, pregnant women, and the elderly in and outside institutions. The Canadian airlift will enable hospital and home support for more than 435,000 patients for the next 12 months.

Operation Boreal

- The supplies are being airlifted from Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Trenton directly to their destinations by Department of National Defence (DND) aircraft.
- The International Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies and their local Russian, Ukrainian and Armenian field offices are providing truck transportation on the ground and are accompanying each shipment to its destination.
- The airlift to Ukraine is complete. Between January 27 and February 7, five planeloads of goods were delivered to hospitals in Kiev, Vinnitsa and Chernigov.
- The first of five shipments of supplies to Russia leaves CFB Trenton February 19. By the end of this month, DND aircraft will have also airlifted supplies to Perm, Chelyabinsk, Kirov, Ufa and Tomsk.
- Canada's humanitarian airlift to the Baltic States will be completed by March 4, with planes delivering aid directly to Tallinn, Estonia; Riga, Latvia; and Vilnius, Lithuania.
- The airlift to Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh is scheduled to take place March 6.
- In addition to the Canadian humanitarian airlift of medical supplies, the Canadian Forces has airlifted two shipments of European Community powdered milk to Moscow.

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