

Statement

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Discours

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ETHIOPIA

The Honourable Monique Landry, Minister for External Relations and International Development, met yesterday in New York City with United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to discuss the worrisome situation in Ethiopia.

The main purpose of Mrs. Landry's visit was to gain the full understanding and cooperation of UN agencies, in a spirit of coordination with donor countries.

Mrs. Landry voiced Canada's concerns about the famine, exacerbated by internal conflict, which is threatening the lives of thousands of Ethiopians in the provinces of Eritrea and Tigre.

In addition to comparing notes on their respective assessment of the humanitarian situation in Ethiopia, Mrs. Landry and Mr. Perez de Cuellar reviewed the possibilities open to the international community and to Ethiopian authorities for delivering effective humanitarian aid to all of the affected populations.

Mrs. Landry stated that her talks at UN headquarters were highly interesting and productive. According to Mrs. Landry, both the United Nations and Canada in the short term wish to continue providing emergency relief on a top-priority basis to all the victims of this tragedy.

Mrs. Landry also added that "Canada, one of the principal donors to Ethiopia, continues to hope that the Ethiopian government will agree to allow the actions of all Non-governmental Organizations who have expressed a humanitarian and unselfish desire to participate in relief operations".

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Minister for
External Relations and
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