



news release

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CANADA ANNOUNCES EXTENSION TO COMMONWEALTH MILITARY TRAINING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME (CMTAP) IN UGANDA

The Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, and the Honourable Jean-Jacques Blais, Minister of National Defence, today announced that Canada has agreed to continue its participation in the Commonwealth Military Training Assistance Programme (CMTAP) until the end of March 1984, when Canadian involvement will terminate.

CMTAP was established in 1982 as a result of a request from President Obote of Uganda for Commonwealth assistance in retraining the Ugandan army. Since April 1982, a three-person Canadian Forces medical contingent has been in Jinja (near Kampala) training Ugandan army medical staff and providing medical care for the Commonwealth team. Canada also provided \$300,000 in the first year to help defray costs of the Programme. Today's joint announcement covers Canadian participation for the second year of CMTAP. It is expected to continue its operations, at current levels, until March 1984.

This Commonwealth effort to assist Uganda restore conditions for political stability, security and economic recovery has received widespread support within Uganda and the region as a whole.